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AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On August 25th, at "Tantallan," Barker Road, the wife of Capt. J. DOUGLAS, of a daughter.
On September 3rd, at Shamshu, Canton, the wife of JAMES McISAAC, of a son.

DEATHS.

On August 16th, at Nagasaki, of cholera, JOHN CHATHAM, for many years Foreman Fitter to the Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.
On August 18th, at Shanghai, GOTTFRIED NEUESÜSS, aged 26 years.
On August 18th, at the Isolation Hospital, Shanghai, A. CAROLINE LEACH, aged 23 years.
On September 5th, at Shanghai, NUSSERVANJEE DHUNJEEBOY SE NA, brother of Mr. SORABJEE DHUNJEEBOY SETNA, aged 41 years. Deeply regretted.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of 9th August arrived, per the s.s. *Della*, on Wednesday, the 4th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

T.E. Chang Ying-tang, Assistant Imperial Resident at Lhasa, has arrived at Simla, India, armed with full powers to conclude an Anglo-Tibetan Commercial Treaty.

It is stated from Peking that both the Japanese and Russian Ministers in Peking have approached the Waiwupu about the proposed advent of Japanese and Russian priests into China with the view of gaining converts to their respective faiths.

A Peking dispatch reports that the British Minister has protested against the establishment of the Prepared Opium Bureau by the Liangkiang Government in Kiangsu province, on the ground that a Government monopoly of this kind is contrary to the Anglo-Chinese treaties.

The *N. C. Daily News* understands that the Waiwupu has, in response to the request of the British Minister, instructed the provincial governments of Kiangsu, Kiangsi, Hupeh and Szechuan to delay starting official bureaux for the sale of prepared opium, pending negotiations with the British Government.

The P. & O. steamer *Pera* grounded on Sept. 4th on a mudbank off Kowloon Point. She had just arrived from Singapore and was proceeding to the wharf to discharge cargo when the mishap occurred. The falling tide militated against the efforts to release the ship but after waiting a few hours she was able to move off, fortunately without having received any damage.

An interesting sample of Chinese superstition is presented by the story of the fellow employees of the diver who recently lost his life in the harbour and their European employer. Before the fatality this gentleman had taken part in the capture and slaughter of a turtle, and it is reported that the rest of his employees have threatened to leave his service unless he promises not to meddle any more with the water joss.

On the morning of August 29th, a Chinese coolie who was engaged in weighing coal at Tunkadoo Wharf Shanghai, was seen to fall suddenly to the ground. It appeared at first as though he had been knocked down by one of his fellow-labourers, but when he was picked up by foreigners who had witnessed the incident, it was found that he was suffering from a bullet wound in the left side. No shot was heard, and it was rumoured that he had been struck by a rifle-bullet fired across river from the Chinese city. The wounded man was at once removed to Hospital and on examination there it was found that he had been struck by a .38 calibre revolver bullet, which had entered the left side, travelled under the skin around the ribs, and lodged under the third rib on the right side. The man is receiving every attention and owing to the course the bullet took, the wound is not considered serious.

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Mercantile Association of Shanghai have sent a joint note to their fellow-Chambers and associations throughout the country and abroad stating that the Parliamentary Association has asked them to draw up a code of commercial laws for incorporating into the future constitutional laws of the country, and that, feeling the important nature of the work before them, Shanghai merchants invite their fellow-merchants throughout China and wherever Chinese are abroad doing business (United States, Australia, Straits Settlements and islands of the South Pacific) to send representatives to Shanghai to confer on the subject. It is proposed to hold a Congress here on the 14th and 15th days of the 10th moon (November 10 and 20) at the Yüyen Gardens in the Bubbling Well Road, and it is hoped that this invitation will be universally accepted.

H. E. Chang Tseng-yang, Governor of Chékang, is said to have written to Viceroy Tuan Fang accusing Mr. Su, the manager of the Kiangnan Mercantile Association, of being an anti-Monarchist and demanding his arrest and punishment which means execution. The *N. C. Daily News* understands that his Excellency has replied that the accusation is a malicious one and, therefore, there was no necessity of arresting Su and "putting him to the question" on the charges made against him.

A somewhat crude though sufficiently impudent attempt to rob a till in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Shanghai was made on August 28th by a Chinese. It appears that a Portuguese clerk was sent from the foreign department, where a shortage of silver obtained, to the Compradores' department, with an order for \$500 in silver. The shroff to whom the clerk applied had not the required sum in his tills and, in company with the clerk, he went to the strong-room for an additional supply. As soon as the shroff had left the apartment a well dressed Chinese who had evidently been watching his opportunity, slipped in through the wicket door, seated himself on the shroff's stool, pocketed fifty dollars lying on the desk and then proceeded to examine the nearest till in which he discovered a roll of notes amounting to \$2,000. Evidently with an idea of disarming any suspicion which might be felt by the remaining eleven shroffs who were seated in the apartment and were apparently oblivious of the irregular proceedings occurring beside them, the visitor calmly began to sort the roll of notes and transfer them singly to his pockets. While he was engaged at this lucrative pastime, a coolie employee of the Bank approached the desk to speak to the shroff. The strange face almost caused him to withdraw, but the unusual activity of the pseudo-shroff convinced him that something was wrong, and the alarm was given. After the money he had laid hands on had been extracted from the culprit's pocket, he was hauled off to the Central Police Station where he was charged with having stolen the sum of \$50. The accused refused to give any information concerning himself beyond the fact that he is a resident of Pootung.—*N. C. Daily News.*

THE BORNEO EXPEDITION.

The s.s. *Jacob Diederichsen*, with Sir Paul Chater's exploration party aboard, has returned from Dutch North Borneo. About 80 tons of coal were secured from the field visited. Forty were used on the return voyage as a test, and forty have been brought back for analysis. The experts who surveyed the field are said to be thoroughly satisfied with the prospects, and have proved that the coal field is an extensive one.

A cutting through the dense jungle to this supposed Eldorado was made by coolies, who were conveyed from Hongkong for that purpose.

After the steamer had proceeded some distance up the river, and passed a few villages, she dropped anchor at the last settlement, which was principally composed of Chinese. Then they had to proceed through practically virgin jungle. To a certain extent, however, their journey has proved successful, but the ultimate success of the expedition depends on the analyst's report.

THE ARCHBISHOP AND THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

(Daily Press, September 2nd.)

ECCE ITERUM ECCLESIASTICUS. All who have given the subject any consideration, and who are not in thrall to any sacerdotal fetish, have probably felt pleased that commonsense should have prevailed at long last, in the matter of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. The opposition has come mainly from those whose intellects abide in what a witty controversialist has called "the furnished lodgings of tradition": from men who do not go to the well for truth, but have it delivered, diluted, at their doors; from men whose thinking is done for them, on the hire system: from men who have not a single conviction that was not got secondhand, and something the worse for wear. Their enthusiasm in opposition to the reform—and they have certainly fought hard, with all their might and with all their bishops—has been based on grounds that a Chinese could probably understand very well. They have shown a most conservative dread of change, and a quite Oriental veneration for the aged, pinning their faith on a nearly four hundred year old compilation, made by men who probably believed that the world was flat, that witches should be roasted, and that an unbaptized baby must endure the tortures of an eternal hell. Englishmen were legally forbidden to marry the sisters of their deceased wives by that prince of morality, King HENRY VIII., who must have chuckled sardonically as he added his signature to the Act. For nearly sixty years the Marriage Law Reform Association has been fighting to get this Bill passed and the Commons have passed it several times, generally to be rejected by the Lords. At last both Houses have passed it. Britain has advanced to the position of enlightenment occupied by some of its Colonies, and the joss men and medicine men are squawking indignantly at the rest of the tribe whom they have hitherto led by the nose. A good many anomalies have been wiped out, and troubles and disabilities removed from many families: but we do not think we could have been persuaded of the importance of this success if it had depended upon the proportion of people directly benefiting. This view, that there are after all comparatively few men anxious to re-engage the same mother-in-law, has doubtless helped the forces of the opposition by persuading men that it did not matter much either way. It did, and does, however. To us the successful passage of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill signifies the knocking off of one of the last remaining fetters put on by a particularly objectionable and dangerous tyranny. All such purely arbitrary prohibitions, not warranted by ethics or sensible consideration of natural consequences, should have been exploded long ago. Until we are rid of them all, our self-respect suffers. The priestly ban on the deceased wife's sister is on all fours precisely with the "tabu" of the island savage. Indeed, many cases of tabu have greater reason and warrant. The King ought to bestow a Peerage on the first man who marries his deceased wife's sister, especially if he marries her in Leut. He will have done more for the progress of civilization than the man who syndicates an *ad captandum* press, or contributes brewery dividends to the Party purse. We can respect the priest as a minister to the spiritual needs of the people, but as a law-maker or administrator thereof we do utterly loathe and abominate him. As such he is really to be feared. The signs now are that he has had his day, and we thank

God for it. But there is a kick left in him; he is only scotched, not killed. Reuter informs us that the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY has recommended the clergy not to celebrate marriages with a deceased wife's sister. In other words, he urges the servants of the State Church to refuse to obey State laws. This is an impropriety to which we might more strongly object, were it not that there is a silver lining to the cloud. Let them do it. It will but help to swell the number of civil marriages, and to bring nearer the time of disestablishment, when the things that are Caesar's will be rendered, free of tithing, and men may be born, and schooled, and married, and buried, free of the arbitrary trammels of a subsidized superstition.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

(Daily Press, September 3rd.)

That Mr. BIRRELL, and the Cabinet acting under the leadership of Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN should have at the eleventh hour had the courage to lock up Mr. J. P. FARRELL, Nationalist Member of Parliament for Longford, North, and forty of his followers, is an item of news that will be received with satisfaction by all lovers of order;—only one subject of regret remains—that he did not do so a year sooner, when there could have been no mistake as to the import of the act. As a fact the party led by Mr. REDMOND, of which the Member for North Longford is but an insignificant individual, will put down the belated return to reason of Mr. BIRRELL, as but a poor attempt at revenge for the contemptuous manner in which Mr. REDMOND kicked his Irish Council Bill down stairs last May. Mr. BIRRELL had fatuously forecasted his wretched Bill as intended to give "Irishmen" the right of managing their own affairs: which Irishmen of the forcing house species interpreted as applying to themselves personally, the scheme in the end only proving a lame copy of GLADSTONE'S celebrated Home Rule Act, with a little extra pap admixture for specially good children. Mr. REDMOND looked upon himself as victimised. He had expected to be made dictator, he was only confirmed as agitator general. Now, of course, and this is the lesson in statesmanship that neither GLADSTONE, nor any of his disciples were ever capable of learning, it is the easiest and simplest thing in life to make a people, especially an excitable and inexperienced people like the native Irish, discontented. There is no necessity to make bad laws, no occasion for harsh treatment or injustice. You may sit at your ease at home, or utter a few words from your place at St. Stephens calling your Irishman a member of a down-trodden people, and the thing is done; and the rôle of injured innocence assumed as if it were the most natural thing in life to be oppressed. In fact few things prove how completely unready, as yet at all events, your true born Irishman is for self-government as this perpetual imagining of oppression. Once let the disease of imagined maltreatment get hold on a subject, medical records will tell us, how impossible, almost, it is to eradicate the notion, even from minds ordinarily sane. Once it gains the mastery in a weaker subject, it generally succeeds in following the patient to his grave. Of course the worst thing the physician can do under the circumstances is to try and humour the weakness. The wise physician seeks to engage the patient's attention on other more profitable things, but this is what

a government like the present, whose only bond of union is that each man has got a grievance of some sort or other, however dissimilar, finds itself, as a government, utterly unable to grasp. I don't know, said a gentleman of this calibre in the days of the Tichborne claimant, whether he is Sir ROGER or is'nt; but this I know, I don't like to see a poor man done out of his rights. This, as a little consideration will show, was the inducing motive with Mr. BIRRELL, and others like him, to bring in the Irish Council Bill, avowedly not for the purpose of removing evils but that every Irishman might have the opportunity of doing as he liked. Of course, if the population of Ireland consisted only of Irishmen of Mr. REDMOND'S, or even of Mr. FARRELL'S type, there might be something to be said in favour of a bill enabling them without outside interference to act the part of the Kilkenny cats; but it has been hitherto the good fortune of Ireland that though a number, possibly counting merely heads a majority, are prepared in this respect to follow Mr. REDMOND'S lead, there is a remnant—and the number of it is daily increasing—who are by no means ready to be dictated to by the agitator, and whose instincts and feelings are entirely on the side of order; who are in many respects more English than the English themselves, having learnt by sad experience the evils of agitation for an imaginary nationality, which never existed, nor ever can exist. It is time in the interests of these, who though in a minority of heads, are actually in a vast majority of brains and intelligence, that something should, however tardily, be done by British statesmen. Relying on their own right hands, and amidst the frowns of a section of unworthy pretenders to the name of Englishmen, these men even when fewer numerically than at present, have hitherto preserved for the British Empire this part of its possessions. It is an ominous sign of an approaching break up that the leaders of disaffection should now be found, not amidst the open excitors to disorder but in the ranks of a professedly British Cabinet.

Doubtless some feelings of their duty to their country, even when opposed by the intrigues of a party incapable of comprehending the claims of loyalty, still lingers in a few of the present advisers of His Majesty. It is to be hoped that this last incident may be looked upon as a commencement of a return of the tide, and that the present disaffection, having no ground-work in any ill-treatment or tangible cause of complaint, instead of being fanned into dangerous prominence by ill-considered and disloyal sympathies, will be treated in a more honest and statesmanlike way, and be steadily and consistently repressed, as a dangerous and noxious weed, fatal to all progress, and inimical to the best interests of the people themselves.

THE HONGKONG FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Daily Press, 4th September.)

Shadowy sails of fishing junks, silhouetted against a sunset sky, processioning out of Hongkong harbour to their accustomed fishing grounds, make a picture that one seeing is unlikely to forget. Apart from its picturesqueness as a spectacle, from its æsthetic stimulus for the lover of the beautiful, it seems it can be suggestive to the mind practical, to the materially-minded person who rarely overlooks such considerations as those of dividends and chow. One such the other evening saw the oft-repeated scene, so

provocative of contemplative rapture, but with him it worked differently. He spoke about it somewhat as follows:

"The business men here often complain of bad times, but they do not hustle to improve them. There, it seems, to me, is an instance of neglected opportunity. Instead of those slow-going junks, feebly fighting adverse tides, depending on fickle winds, zig-zaging toward the open sea, where their crews will struggle with cumbersome nets, and dawdle home in the same way with their catch, why should there not be a few up-to-date steam trawlers, that would race to the fishing grounds, scoop up the fish, and hasten back with them so as to deliver them as fresh as possible? It would surely benefit not only the enterprising investors, but also the general public. It is an important question of food supply to the Colony, as well as of dividends."

The man who had simply been enjoying the picture, as a picture, without thought of its ulterior purposes, shuddered like a man awaking by a cold hearth. He thought of the countless evenings on which the cane ropes had groaned as they wound over the drums, while the great mat sails rose jerkily to catch the evening breeze, the women swayed gracefully over the sweep shaft, and the helmsmen steered through the pass; and the mental image of the days to come, with smoky, snorting steam trawlers fussily replacing the old-fashioned craft, gave him almost a pain. He desired to express opposition to the idea, but knew that none but utilitarian arguments could prevail in that company. All he could think of was the possible disturbing effects of interfering with the livelihood of the fisher folk, and he mooted the point.

The reformer made short work of him. If they were to kowtow to the conservatism of the natives, nothing would ever be done. Besides, had not electric trams superseded rickshas without doing any harm? There was a big market here for fish, and it was time less antiquated methods were adopted to cater to it. At present there were 22,000 odd fishing boat licences issued, and yet tons of fish had to be imported by steamer from Canton. That showed that the junks could not cope with the demand. Chinese elsewhere had gone in for steam trawlers—on the Shantung coast, he believed—and he had heard there was a big company at work on similar lines in Cochin-China.

"But nothing has ever been heard of the success of the two steam trawlers up north," interrupted a stickler for facts, "and I believe there was a good deal of difficulty put in the way of the French company, so that it is still only in the projection stage, I understand. Is it not the fact that it is a local scarcity of fish that requires the produce of our twenty thousand Hongkong junks to be augmented from Canton? I have heard it repeatedly said that the local fishing grounds are comparatively exhausted. The Government tries to stop dynamiting, but it still allows a ridiculously small mesh."

"All the more reason," put in the first speaker, "for the introduction of steam trawlers. They could go further afield in the same time."

The reply was that fish was too cheap here to make it pay. It would otherwise mean an increase in the price of fish, an awkward problem. Even at home, where fish was dearer, the industry was not particularly flourishing. "Besides," added a well-informed listener, "the present method of getting the fish to market from the local fleet is not so antiquated as you suppose. A number of steam launches are

employed as tenders. The junks discharge at various convenient points, where these launches call specially, and thence hurry back to Hongkong. At Shaikiwan, Aberdeen, Stanley, and so forth, the fish are so transferred. Fish is frequently found on Hongkong breakfast tables that has been caught during the night. Steam trawlers could scarcely improve upon that. By-and-by, when the railways open up inland markets for fresh fish, as they undoubtedly will, your idea may be practical. At present it does not seem so."

The reformer was silenced, but not convinced. The aesthetically-minded objector, watching the last of the shadowy sails being swallowed by the gathering darkness, reflected that at the rate the railways were now being advanced, there would be little fear of such a rupture of romance in his time, and was glad. So too, had they not, beating out beneath the stars, been blissfully unconscious of this threatment, might have felt the fisherfolk.

KEIR HARDIE.

(Daily Press, 5th September.)

That he ought to be tarred and feathered was the startling remark of a Hongkong citizen on being informed that Mr. KEIR HARDIE was nearly due at Hongkong. And when another man said this vicious comment recalled a certain cry of "crucify him," the original speaker pretended to be shocked at the implied comparison. Though KEIR HARDIE'S opinions are as unconventional as his clothes, and his cranky theories seem so much waste of breath to practical politicians, content to make the best of things that cannot be changed, because fundamental, no one has had the temerity openly to suggest that he is not an honest man. He is not a self-seeker, and charges of venality or insincerity, if seriously levelled against him, would soon be refuted. He is a bit of a nuisance, a good deal wrapt in foolish dreams, but that, after all, is not a rare character in human history. An unprejudiced debater would probably decide that KEIR HARDIE'S philosophy is too Christian for Christendom; and if we dared to be frank, we should boldly affirm what we more than suspect, that it is an uneasy conscience, convicting us of humbug, that makes us dislike and fear him and his like so much. As a socialist he is where the parsons are, fighting a losing fight, or like Sisyphus, pushing uphill a big boulder, that will not stay where it is pushed to, because it is "against nature" for it not to roll back again when the gravity-opposing pressure relaxes. So with other matters. It is unnatural to "turn the other cheek," when we know the smiter will thereby merely be encouraged to further aggression; it is unpalatable to be told about the folly of piling up earthly treasures, when we are busy making our fortunes; and we really, pursuing our way up the same hill, wish that fussy SISYPHUS would take himself and his boulder away. KEIR HARDIE keeps on pushing, however, and if only out of pity for the vanity of his self-sacrifice, we should avoid that cry of "crucify him." When he lands at Hongkong, those who talk of tar and feathers so glibly had better keep in the background. In addition to being a Christian Socialist, KEIR HARDIE is also a pillar of the Independent Labour Party. The two things hang together, of course, but while the Socialists are concerned mainly with theories and ideals, the Labour champions have begun to handle practical details. Mischievous is to be more immediately apprehended from them. Fortunately for those who do not appreciate

the upsetting mania and iconoclasm of such people—it is a sort of universal spring cleaning they aim at, ripping everything out and shoving it back again, the effect merely being that the dirt changes places—there are forces, inevitable in human nature, that prevent the cohesion that would achieve success and a generally disconcerting upset. The greatest enemy of such friends of the British Workman is that horny-handed humbug himself, as many men, genuinely endeavouring to help him, have discovered to their cost. If KEIR HARDIE had not been so much of a Christian, we feel sure his experiences would ere this have tempted him to re-echo the plaint of the Corn Law Rhymer, who wrote "Curse the people, blast the people, damn the lower orders." But he hasn't, and his manful persistence, his manly independence, and his general ability, compel reluctant admiration. His eccentricity in the matter of dress is his best achievement, for while men generally have academically admitted that clothes do not matter, it is very few of them who dare defy convention, and in their wardrobes show the courage of their convictions. Such bravery is surely needed in our national makeup, and ought to be fostered. So also, unless we want to copy the Chinese, ought "Queer" HARDIE'S contemptuous handling of tradition and 'ole custom. There we are in a state of slavery, and as an abolitionist our imminent visitor earns a cheer or two. His views of imperial matters are hopeless, and his attitude, and the attitude of his like, towards a Utopia of nicely behaving men and women, always reminds us of that deeply moral picture by PHIL MAY of the boy with the toothache, weeping on the sands of Margate as his father drags him along determinedly. "I've brought you down here to enjoy yourself, and I intend to make you enjoy yourself," said in effect that coster sire; and KEIR HARDIE seems equally determined to make the lion and the lamb everywhere kiss each other. When he gets to India, he will probably see and learn things that will make him wiser, but there are none so blind as them that will not see, and if he be that sort, his visit will mean harm instead of good. But in all probability the patent complexity of the Indian problem will strike him, and cure him of some of the dogmatic notions that characterise those "who only England know."

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

(Daily Press, September 6th.)

The proposal of the Government that the Sanitary Board should include among its Standing Orders one corresponding to the rule of the British House of Commons embodying the principle that no member shall vote upon a matter in which he is beneficially interested, is one to which no one can reasonably object; but coming as it did before the Board without any previous indication that such a rule was necessary or desirable, it implied conduct on the part of the unofficial members which they would seem to have every right and reason to resent. For the present, the suggested Standing Order has been "shelved," the ATTORNEY-GENERAL having endorsed Mr. SHELTON HOOPER'S view that it could not legally be adopted under the present statutory powers of the Board. But in communicating its decision to withdraw the suggestion, in view of the opinion expressed by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the Government intimates that it will later

consider "if it should seem to be necessary," the advisability of incorporating the proposal in an Ordinance embodying those points in the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903 which call for amendment.

If the matter had come up for consideration a first time in a general amending bill it might have been made to appear not quite so offensive, but would still not have been free from objection. It will not have escaped general notice that the Government will only consider the matter again "if it should seem to be necessary." Presumably it did seem to be necessary when the proposal was made a couple of months ago, and the proviso in the Colonial Secretary's letter excites a little curiosity to know whether that necessity is now deemed by the Government to exist no longer. When the Standing Orders of the Sanitary Board were first drawn up, the advisability of incorporating a rule of this nature, already well established in England, could scarcely have been left undiscussed; and the fact that it appears neither among the Standing Orders of the Sanitary Board nor those of the Legislative Council suggests that there may have been special reasons for its omission. We think such reasons do actually exist. The proposal of such a rule for the Sanitary Board seems quite superfluous. If the Sanitary Board possessed the powers of a similar Council in England there would be better reason than exists at present for adopting a rule of this character, but the Sanitary Board, as both Mr. Hooper and Mr. HUMPHREYS found occasion to remark at last Tuesday's meeting, is merely an advisory body whose decisions on all important matters of sanitary administration are subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Council, who would certainly decline to approve any recommendation passed by the Sanitary Board in the manner implied by the suggested standing order.

It was unfair to the ratepayers no less than to the unofficial members themselves that the Government ignored the request for a statement of the reasons which had led to the suggestion of the standing order. The President of the Sanitary Board admitted that he was aware of no breach of the principle embodied in the proposed standing order, and the Government can blame nobody but themselves for the suggestion appearing to the public in the light of an unworthy and unwarranted attack on the personal integrity and public honour of the ratepayers' representatives. The ratepayers equally with their elected representatives have a claim to know what prompted the suggested standing order. If any sound reason had existed, it appears to us that the proper course would have been for the Governor-in-Council to refuse the recommendation concerned and send it back to the Sanitary Board with a plain intimation of the reason for the refusal. But following, as this suggestion of a new standing order did, upon a somewhat acrimonious discussion of the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission, it seemed like the last retort of a desperate controversialist. The members of the Board are too well known to require from us any words in their defence. They do not need to be told that a vote given to serve their own private ends and not the general welfare of the public is one of the most contemptible acts that could be alleged against a member of a public body; and we are equally sure that on a Board of which so many officials are members any abuse of that description would instantly evoke a strong protest which would promptly result in the cancellation of the vote. It may be

that some member has interested himself in a public question embracing a personal interest and thus unconsciously incurred official displeasure. This is mere supposition, but we suggest it only to express the opinion that the proposed standing order would not prevent such cases, unless the underlying purpose of it is to practically exclude from the Board everybody who is in any way identified with property interests in the Colony. The business of the Sanitary Board is mainly with house property, and the members of the Board who know this work best are those most likely to be accused of having a beneficial interest in almost every important question of policy dealt with by the Board. A member whose votes are constantly challenged can scarcely be expected to tolerate it long, and the use which may be made of this standing order would therefore tend to restrict the ratepayers' choice of representatives.

The Sanitary Board during the past few years has been in bad odour with the public, and there is still a deplorable lack of confidence in that body, as is evidenced by the present stagnation in the property market. Money is plentiful but the investing public is timid; the capricious acts of the Sanitary Board in the past have involved house-owners in heavy expense, and only, it seems to us, can confidence be regained by having some representatives of the property interest on the Board—men who are well-acquainted with the mischievous errors of the Sanitary administration in the past, as set forth in the Report of the Sanitary Commission, and possessing the necessary experience and knowledge of detail to enable them to informatively discuss the various proposals submitted to the Board and help to protect the public from unnecessary harassments. The property interest is not over-represented, and we should be sorry to see useful and active members driven from the Board by constant imputations of selfish motives. If there was legitimate use to be made of such a standing order as the one suggested, the public ought to have been made acquainted with the circumstances which are deemed to require it: in the absence of such information the standing order can only be viewed as a weapon intended for use by the official against the unofficial units of the Board. If solid reasons exist they should be plainly stated; if they do not, the Government should refrain from these pin-pricking methods of controversy and set itself to promote a spirit of co-operation on the Board. Antagonism between the two elements of the Board on certain vital principles of policy is apparently inevitable, but we are sure that neither on the one side nor the other can selfish and dishonourable motives justly be imputed.

We hope therefore that the suggested standing order may be permanently shelved. Its adoption would only serve to accentuate the present friction, for no member is likely under any circumstances to make a barefaced attempt to serve his own personal interests, and when it comes to deciding what a member's beneficial interests really are, we fancy it will be found a very perplexing matter indeed requiring constant demands on the time of the legal advisers in the service of the Colonial Government. If the House of Commons is unable to define what a member's direct pecuniary interests are, under very ordinary circumstances, it will puzzle the Sanitary Board to define the term "beneficial interest." Many years ago a Committee submitted to the House of Commons the following question for decision: "Whether a member of the House of Commons having property within the

limits of an improvement bill, which property may be affected by the passing of the bill, has such an interest as in the judgment of the House, disqualifies him as a member of the House and the representative of general local interests from voting on all questions affecting the preamble or clauses of the said bill." Here is the very question which may be expected to frequently arise at the Sanitary Board. The House of Commons considered three propositions submitted by way of answering the question, but all were ultimately withdrawn, and the House of Commons could do no more than refer the Committee to the rule of the House that no member who has a direct pecuniary interest in a question shall be allowed to vote upon it. That rule was explained by a Speaker to mean that direct pecuniary interest must be an interest "separately belonging to the persons whose votes are questioned and not in common with the rest of his Majesty's subjects, or on a matter of State policy." If a member's "beneficial interest" is to be interpreted in the same way, we fail to see what purpose the standing order would serve except, as we have said, to promote a continual unedifying wrangle. In these days and in this Colony the standard of honour among public men is surely high enough to render such a standing order totally unnecessary, and if it were not, the fact that the Sanitary Board is merely an advisory body, and that the Governor-in-Council is the deciding authority, plainly makes the rule superfluous and simply vexatious.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Sept. 3rd at the Board Room. The Hon. Mr. W. Chatham C.M.G. (Vice-President), presided, and there were also present Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. H. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe (Registrar-General), Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewatt, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

DRAFT ESTIMATES.

The reply from the Government relative to the draft estimates for the Sanitary Department for the year 1908 was read as follows:—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst. stating that the Sanitary Board had agreed to adopt the Estimates for the Sanitary Department for the year 1908 subject to the item "Inspector of Markets (£195 to £230 by £5 annually)" being deleted, and to acquaint you for the information of the Board that in deference to its wishes the Government has no objection to changing the designation of the officer referred to to that of "Inspector of Cattle Depot and Slaughter House, Kowloon," where an officer for this work is, in the opinion of the Government, absolutely essential. I am to add that the question of alterations in the constitution of the Sanitary Department is receiving the consideration of the Government. The fact that consequential changes in the Estimates will not appear in the draft estimates for next year is due to the fact that a final decision on this matter cannot be reached in time for inclusion, and will involve reference to the Secretary of State.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Members of the Board will observe that the Government have adopted the proposal of the Board that the Inspector of Markets should be dispensed with and the title altered to Inspector of Cattle Depot and Slaughter house, Kowloon. With regard to the paragraph which appeared in this morning's papers as to some further changes having been made in the duties of the Sanitary Department staff, I may say that the announcement is somewhat premature. Any further changes are still engaging the attention of the Government.

THE PROPOSED STANDING ORDERS.

The following reply was received from the Government relative to the proposed Standing Orders:—

Colonial Secretary's Office.
August 23rd, 1907.

Sir.—Referring to your letter of the 8th instant re previous correspondence, I am directed to state that the Acting Attorney-General's advice was sought on 12th July last with regard to the proposed amendments of the Standing Orders of the Board.

2. Mr. Gompertz desired time to consider the point raised and in consequence the Government was unable to place his opinion before the Board.

3. The matter has now been referred to Mr. Rees Davies, the Attorney-General, whose opinion is as follows:

"(a) The statutory power given to the Sanitary Board limits its right to make standing orders 'for regulating the procedure of its meetings' and in my opinion standing orders which seek to place a prohibition as to right of voting would not come within the purview of the section and are *ultra vires*.

"(b) An amendment to the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance might be effected by inserting after section 13 a section prohibiting any member from voting on any question in which he is beneficially interested."

4. In view of this opinion this Government withdraws the suggestion that the Board should make proposed amendments in their standing orders and will later consider (if it should seem to be necessary) the advisability of introducing a clause on the lines suggested in the concluding paragraph of the Attorney-General's opinion into an Ordinance embodying the points in the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903 which call for amendment.

5 I am to add that H.E. the Governor is glad to observe that a member of the Board whose remarks were the means of preventing the resolution being taken which would in the opinion of the Attorney-General have been *ultra vires*, endorses the principle to which it was suggested to give effect and declared himself in sympathy with it.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I propose the letter lie on the table. I don't think it calls for comment.

Mr. HOOPER—I have a few remarks to make. I should have been willing to let the matter pass without comment considering that the legal adviser of the Crown has confirmed the opinion I expressed that the standing orders were *ultra vires*, but there is a personal allusion in the letter to myself. I am gratified that His Excellency is pleased with my attitude, but though I was responsible for the resolution not being passed I adhere to the principle of the resolution. In order however, that there should be no misunderstanding in future, I would like to say that while I adhere to the principle I reserve to myself the right to criticise whatever application of that principle the Government may make in future, because I think we must all jealously guard the unofficial majority at this Board. With these remarks I am willing to let the matter take its course. I may add that I think the Government on further considering the subject will find there is no necessity for these standing orders because we are practically only an advisory board with regard to exemption, while we have no money to spend nor have we power to enter into contracts. We can only advise the Government, so if they look into the matter they will find there is no necessity for such a law.

ANOTHER COMPROMISE.

The reply from the Government relative to the much-discussed question of exempting a certain block of houses in Mongkoktsui from section 175 was read as follows:—"Referring to your letter of the 3rd ult., I am directed to state that H.E. the Governor-in-Council is unable to permit total exemption from the requirements of section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, as amended by Ordinance No. 8 of 1907, in the case of houses Nos. 191 to 231 Station Street North, Mongkoktsui. The Governor-in-Council has, however, granted exemption from the requirements of the section on condition that half the kitchen on the upper floors of each house is converted into a verandah, and that a window is

opened in each case from the living room on the floor into the verandah."

Mr. HOOPER minuted—As Messrs J. D. Humphreys & Son hold certificates, mentioned in section 2 of their letter of 11th December, they can claim exemption in accordance with section 263 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—This may be so, but Messrs J. D. Humphreys and Son are not anxious to go to the expense of testing it in a court of law. The Board are not obliged to take action and I fail to see how they can very well do so, having recommended the property for exemption on three separate occasions.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—The enforcement of section 175 is entirely left to the discretion of the Board who should withdraw the notice.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I think there is a slight misunderstanding in the minds of members as to the power the Board possesses as to the modification of the provisions of this section. If the Board declines to exercise this power the course will be for the Building Authority to enforce the provisions of the Ordinance, so that I don't think the Board in taking up this position will be conferring any boon upon the owners of property.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I would like to ask whether I am to consider myself muzzled on this question.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Oh no, you are at liberty to speak.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I may tell you that although I am not in the Company myself, the firm in which I am a partner has shares. I have more to do in managing the Company's affairs than anyone else, and will not vote on the question. At the same time, before taking my seat I should like to protest very strongly against the way the Government treats the Board in this matter. This application has been referred to the Government for exemption four times already, and this is the fourth time it has come back. It seems to me we are simply an advisory Board, and that all our powers are taken away from us. As long as we confine our attention to certain persons who have latrines and water tanks in back yards our decision is final, but as soon as the Board attempts to consider anything of any importance it always comes back from the Government with the remark "the Governor-in-Council is not pleased to grant exemption." If the Government are going to continue to do this, it seems to me that the simplest course would be for the Governor-in-Council to dissolve the Board altogether and settle everything itself out of hand. Why refer it to the Board at all? I don't know whether these constant pin pricks—I can call them nothing else—are taken with a view to exasperate the unofficial members of the Board and make them resign, but as one of the ratepayers' representatives I will resign when I feel inclined to do so, or when the ratepayers take me off—not before.

Mr. HOOPER—Sir, With regard to your remark that if the Board refused to take action you, the Building Authority, could, I venture to say that that is a threat which I am sure would have no weight with any member of this Board. But for your information I may tell you, Sir, that in my minute I stated that certificates have been granted by the Board and by the Building Authority under Section 263 of the previous ordinance. The owner of the property holds certificates under your hand, or under that of your delegate, stating that the houses were built according to the Building Laws. The owner of the property also holds certificates from this Board stating that the houses were built in accordance with the Public Health Laws, and in face of that I think there is no course open but for the Board to take no further action in this matter; and I may say that I have been legally advised that neither the Building Authority nor the Board have any right to take any action, as it is covered by this section. In these circumstances I would move that no action whatever be taken on the notice.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK seconded.

Mr. HOOPER—In order to make it quite clear, for your information, in a paragraph in John D. Humphreys' letter you will find the date of your certificate. I would ask that it be read.

The VICE-PRESIDENT (reading)—"The Company upon this assurance erected 22 of these houses on the lot which were completed and passed by the Director of Public Works on August 12th, 1902, and by the Sanitary Board on August 14th, 1902."

Mr. HOOPER—And I have seen those certificates.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I don't know that there is any use in taking a division. I think, perhaps, it would be better to refer the matter to the Crown Solicitor and ascertain how it stands.

Mr. HOOPER—I move that the opinion of the Attorney-General be taken.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Yes, the Attorney-General. Do members agree?

Members signified their approval of this course.

WATER TANKS.

An application was received for permission to retain a water tank in the yard of 81, Third Street.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—I am not in favour of the abolition of tanks if they are kept clean. The inspectors might report periodically on their condition.

The Hon. Mr. HEWITT—I consider the use of these tanks should be limited as much as possible. In most cases if the business of the workshop, restaurant, etc., is sufficient to justify a special water supply this can be arranged by the meter system. Not only does the existence of these tanks necessitate constant supervision on the part of the Sanitary Authorities, but they also mean in most cases dirty water, being rendered the possible breeding places of mosquitoes.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death rate for the week ending August 10th was 24.6 in the British and foreign community, as against 44.9 in the corresponding week of last year and in the whole colony the death rate was 20.5 as against 22.2 for the corresponding week of last year.

The death rate in Macao for the week ending August 19th was 31.1 per 1000.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 3rd September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

AN INTERPRETER'S CLAIM.

Chang A Chong, a agent, sued Lee Woon Nam for \$300 salary for acting as clerk and interpreter to defendant in Manila. Plaintiff landed in Hongkong from Honolulu fifteen years ago and spent a good deal of time in Hongkong, Canton and Manila. Early this year he was introduced to defendant in the Namhoi prison at Canton. Defendant was imprisoned in connection with the liabilities of the Wai Wa bank, which he was managing, and he sent for plaintiff in order to hear how a certain business was progressing in Manila. Defendant asked plaintiff could he go to Manila for him, and after several meetings plaintiff agreed to accompany him to Manila. They remained in Manila for three months, but plaintiff did not receive any salary for his services. The contract between the two was a verbal one; there was nothing in writing.

Mr. Lang represented the plaintiff and Mr. Jackson represented the defendant.

Defendant's case was a denial, and Mr. Jackson suggested that plaintiff had gone to Manila in connection with his agency business.

After evidence, his Lordship gave judgment for defendant with costs.

Thursday, 5th September.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

DISCHARGE SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS.

The application for the discharge of Ferdinand Kiene, a former auctioneer, was submitted. His Honour—Your report is filed, Mr. Kump? The Official Receiver—Yes my Lord. Mr. Grist—Your Lordship has read the report?

His Honour—Yes.

Mr. Grist—I must leave the matter in your Lordship's hands, I submit he is entitled to his discharge. It is a question of how long it ought to be kept back. It seems rather useless to keep the man hanging about unable to do anything, I ask your Lordship to fix it in as short a time as possible.

His Honour—I have read the report. I propose to suspend the discharge for two years.

APPLICATION FOR RELEASE.

Re Chan Sui Hon (adjourned public examination), Mr. Dixon asked for the release of the debtor who had been committed to prison by the Chief Justice on a charge of having concealed portions of his property.

The Official Receiver opposed the application as also Mr. Bailey on behalf of certain creditors.

Mr. Dixon said he would call evidence to show that the debtor had previously disposed of the property which he was charged with concealing. Debtor was sent to prison three weeks ago on evidence sprung upon him at the last moment. He was not represented at the time.

His Honour.—He has only had three weeks.

Mr. Dixon.—If he has had three weeks and he doesn't deserve three weeks, it is three weeks too much.

His Honour.—That may be so.

Mr. Dixon pointed out that the man might be liberated on bail.

His Honour decided that it would be better to keep debtor in prison pending the adjourned examination.

A YARN DEALER'S FAILURE.

Fan Wa Shan, appeared for further public examination in bankruptcy. Debtor, formerly one of the largest yarn dealers in the Colony, was questioned by Mr. Looker on behalf of certain creditors with a view to showing that he had continued to trade knowing himself to be insolvent. Debtor denied that the market fell from \$10 to \$15, and when confronted with a list of his own contracts showing an average fall of over \$10, said he could not remember whether it was low or not.

After further evidence,

Mr. Looker concluded that the discharge should be refused and that the debtor should be imprisoned for carrying on business after he knew he was insolvent.

His Honour—I cannot form an opinion on what I have heard.

The public examination was closed.

HONGKONG HOTEL COLLAPSE.

INQUIRY REGARDING THE DEATHS.

An inquiry into the cause of death of a native who was killed in the collapse which occurred at the old section of the Hongkong Hotel on the last ultimo, was held before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and Messrs. J. D. Morrison, H. L. Muhle and F. E. McHugh, jurors, at the Magistracy on Sept. 4th.

Mr. T. L. Perkins from the Public Works Department was present; Mr. G. E. Morrell, Crown Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Government; Mr. H. W. Looker of Messrs. Deacon Looker and Deacon represented the Hongkong Hotel Co., and Mr. M. J. D. Stephens watched the case on behalf of Messrs. Kuhn and Komor.

Mr. Morrell, in opening, informed the jurors that they were summoned to inquire into the death of one, Leung Wa-thing. From the evidence he would call there would be no doubt as to the immediate cause of death. The man was crushed to death by a collapse which occurred on August 1st at the eastern wing of the Hongkong Hotel. The jurors had to inquire further than into the immediate cause of death, they had to inquire into the cause of the collapse which caused death. After the evidence it would be found that there were only two verdicts open—the ordinary verdict of death by misadventure, or a verdict of manslaughter against whoever might be found guilty of causing the death of deceased. Negligence to warrant a verdict of manslaughter must be negligence of the grossest degree. He did not think in this case they would find any such evidence. The Hongkong Hotel Company had met him in every way, and had helped him in the inquiry.

Mr. Hazeland informed the jurors that there were five deaths through the collapse, but it

was only necessary to hold an inquiry regarding the one.

Dr. Heanley said he examined the body of a Chinese named Leung Wa-thing on August 2nd. The cause of death was multiple injuries.

Chau Hing-kwan, a "boy" in the Hongkong Hotel, said he was on the Queen's Road side of that building at 5.45 p.m. on August 1st. Deceased was with him. When witness went outside he saw some sand come away from a pillar. Witness said to some men who were sitting on the verandah, "run." Leung Wa-thing had not time to get away before the whole pillar collapsed. He disappeared with the wreckage.

By Mr. Looker—The first pillar was over the shop front. There was another pillar outside this—over the verandah.

Mr. E. Osborne, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., said the building of the east wing was commenced about 23 years ago. The old wing he had heard, was built about forty years ago. It was one of the old original houses of the Colony. The old building and the east wing were connected by bridges, and verandahs ran along the sides of both buildings. One bridge and part of the eastern verandah collapsed. When the collapse occurred alterations were being made on the east wing ground floor to the north of the collapsed portion. At this time a cement floor had been put in to the west of the collapse. Previous to last year the Hotel Co. had periodical examinations of the whole building made, but on no fixed date. Last year arrangements were made with the Company's architects for an annual inspection, which was to be made about April. The inspection this year had been practically completed before the collapse; the east wing had been passed as being sound, but the architect's report had not yet been received by the Hotel Co. Previous to the collapse some pillars of the east wing verandah had been practically reconstructed. As Chairman, witness used occasionally to visit the work of alterations to satisfy himself that the shoring was, as far as he could tell, good. He was satisfied that generally it was properly done. The Company had not received notice from the architects that the east wing, or the verandah of the old building, was unsafe. Neither had any notices been received from the Public Works Department.

Mr. G. Blood, a member of the firm of Messrs. Palmer and Turner architects, said he was acting as architect for the Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd. His firm did not build the last wing. In the collapse on August 1st the debris fell through the skylight into Messrs. Kuhn and Komor's shop on the ground floor. Witness put in a plan showing the extent of the collapse. Previous to the collapse witness had to cut out two pillars, numbered eight and nine on the plan. Both were on the first floor. When they were being cut out props and "needles" were inserted in the walls close to the pillars, and the arches were shored up. Pillars eight and nine were cut out half at a time and temporary props put up to take the weight which had been borne by the half cut out. It was quite impossible the shoring did what it was supposed to stop, that was to say, that the outward strain at the foot of the building against which the shoring was placed caused a movement in the building. Except the two mentioned, none of the other pillars were altered.

Can you give any explanation of the fact why all the fallen pillars, with the exception of No. 6, are broken off just at the top of the base, while No. 6 has practically gone altogether?—No. But No. 6 may have been knocked down by the debris.

Have you any idea as to how the collapse started?—In my opinion the collapse started by the digging away of pillar No. 4.

Have you examined that pillar?—Yes. I found a crack in it at 3.10 p.m. on the day of the collapse. The stucco was stripped from the pillar for an examination. The crack in the brickwork was bigger than the one in the stucco.

Did it appear to you a serious crack?—No. But I gave instructions that the pillar should be shored at once.

Was the shoring done?—I don't know.

His Worship—Have you heard since?—I was informed that the shores were cut and taken there.

Mr. Morrell—Was the crack in that pillar an old one?—Yes.

When did you make your annual inspection of the Hotel?—We commenced in April, and the inspection has not yet been completed.

Had you examined those pillars prior to July 21st?—Yes, and I have examined them regularly since April.

Proceeding, witness said there was no way of testing the soundness of pillars without cutting into them. These pillars measured two feet by two feet. The weight per square inch required to crush a pillar built of blue bricks and mortar would be considerably less than the weight required to crush a pillar made of blue bricks only. In witness' opinion the pillars were architecturally wrong. The inquiry was adjourned.

KEIR HARDIE IN HONGKONG.

Keir Hardie, one of the most cordially abused men in British politics, reached Hongkong on Sept. 5th and but few people were aware of his presence. He arrived earlier than was expected by the P. and O. steamer *Marmora*, and not being aware of the arrangements that had been made by His Excellency the Governor for his reception, came ashore in a hotel launch and meeting a friend was escorted up the Peak. He called at Mountain Lodge and was welcomed by both His Excellency and Lady Lugard. Sir Frederick and Mr. Keir Hardie had a long chat together, broken only at intervals to be introduced to the sisters of the French Convent (who were being entertained to tea) or to some other visitor. Afterwards he proceeded to enjoy the view from the flagstaff and returned to town, leaving at nine o'clock for Canton.

Being practically on the move all the time it was no easy task to obtain an interview with the leader of the Labour Party in the House of Commons. Mr. Keir Hardie is easily recognised from the photographs with which most people are familiar in the illustrated journals. A thick set man of about five feet seven or eight in height, he looks robust. A full face, fresh complexion, with a beard of red and grey, and a massive round head, and there you have the features of this notable man. He does not sport the cap which gave him such notoriety in the early days, but wears a soft straw hat.

To a *Daily Press* representative who had a chat with him, Mr. Keir Hardie said that he was recovering his strength, and hoped to be in the best of health when he returned to England. There was no aggressiveness about Keir Hardie. He gave the impression of a man who really thinks before he speaks, and to one or two of the questions addressed to him he did not care to give an answer until he knew something of the conditions which applied. On the subject of socialism both in Britain and out of it he was very optimistic. Like others he was agreeably surprised at the return of so many Labour M.P.'s at the last General Election and had not dared to hope for such results as had been announced in Jarrow and Colne. There was no doubt that the movement was growing, especially the Socialist wing, and though the tide of success might ebb and flow, the party was on the path of progress. Questioned as to the growth of the Socialistic movement in Canada he expressed the opinion that the movement was more a labour one in the East and more of a Socialistic one in the West, particularly in British Columbia, where the miners were fairly strong. The surprising feature about Socialism in Japan was that most of its adherents were Christians but as was to be expected the party had not made much headway there yet.

Mr. Keir Hardie was more guarded when talking about the native question. He realised that the Asiatics were elbowing the white man out in Canada but on the subject of a white Australia for instance he preferred to wait till he reached that continent before expressing an opinion.

Mr. Keir Hardie, who by the way is the second M. P. to pass through Hongkong this week, goes on to India from here by the *Marmora* on Saturday and will proceed to Australia, thence to New Zealand and South Africa.

A DIVER'S DEATH.

At the Magistracy on September 2nd before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and a jury composed of Messrs. H. S. Wynne, J. T. d'Almada e Castro and W. R. Clarke, an inquiry was held into the circumstances attending the death of Lam Shek-kong, who was killed at Hinghom Bay on the 26th instant, while down in a diver's dress.

Dr. Heanley, medical officer in charge of the mortuary, found, after examination, that the cause of the diver's death was asphyxia. There were no marks of injury on the body.

Lam Shek, a diver, said the deceased was removing coal from a sunken junk. Witness was holding the air pipe. Deceased went down in a ding dress at 1 p.m. and was still below at 1.30 when the air pipe parted. Wong Yee-fat was holding the life line and witness told him to pull up. They found the line was cut, and were consequently unable to rescue the diver. Witness, accompanied by others, then pulled to Yanmati in a small boat to get another diving dress, and when this was brought Lam Hing, another diver, went down and recovered deceased's body.

Lam Hing testified to going down after the accident and finding deceased in the hold of the junk. He had made himself fast to the side of the vessel. Both the life line and the air pipe were cut. Witness released the body and brought it to the surface.

E. F. Gibson, submarine engineer, said the coal junk was sunk on the cable area off Kowloon Point in thirteen fathoms of water. Deceased and his brother contracted to remove it. Witness was authorised by the Government to remove all obstructions from the cable area. Deceased had been working for him for about seven years, but during the last twelve months had done very little diving, as he had taken to the opium habit. Deceased took the place of the proper diver on the day of the accident, the latter being unwell. When the occurrence was reported to him witness went at once to the wreck. He saw the body brought up, took off the dress and reported the matter to the police. He thought the accident was caused through the jamming of the air pipe between the side of the junk and a wire that was used to keep one junk over the other. When the diver found that his air was cut off he probably got flurried and cut the wrong rope.

The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

August 31st.

THE TAXATION QUESTION.

An instructive comment on the recent official declarations regarding the Taxation question at Macao is the fact that the Chief of the Fazenda is still persistently endeavouring to exercise his own sweet will in the matter, and is thus keeping alive the agitation which other officials have been doing their utmost to allay. It is common knowledge that since the report on the Taxation Question by your special commissioner appeared in the *Daily Press* there have been one or two interesting meetings of the Junta Fiscal de Matrizas. The Junta consists of the Escrivão da Fazenda and a subordinate official of the Department, the Attorney-General, Captain Maher, Messrs. F. Remedios, Choi-hong, and Siu-tang. Notwithstanding that the tax on incomes is leviable, according to the law, only on the incomes of the professional men, the Escrivão da Fazenda submitted to the Junta a list of people to be taxed which included the head Chinese "boy" at the Boa Vista Hotel, the wharfinger of the H. C. & M. Steamboat Co., and the man employed by the agent of the Company to deliver consignees' letters and papers at a wage of \$12 a month. The Junta declined to sanction the imposition of the tax on these persons and many others, including the doctor at the Lappa Customs who, the Chief of the Fazenda considered, drew his pay from the Colony of Macao.

It has been repeatedly declared that no new taxes have been levied and that no intention to impose new taxation existed. Yet the Escrivão da Fazenda has this very week proposed a tax on makers of wax candles, the candles used largely in the Churches. There

are only a few candle makers in the Colony. The Junta refused to approve the tax, and the matter has been referred by the Fazenda to the Conselho da Provincia. What confidence can the Chinese place in the Government, if within a month of declaring that no new taxes were to be levied, they go back on their word in this manner? The tax on the candle makers cannot realise more than from \$50 to \$70 a year, and for the sake of getting this small sum the Fazenda is ready to stir the smouldering ashes of the recent agitation.

A THREATENED LOSS OF INCOME.

The contracts under which the San-piu and Pacapui lottery monopolies are held have now run out and no syndicates have come forward prepared to carry them on. It is commonly reported that an offer has been made for the Santa Casa da Misericordia Lottery, but I understand that the nature of it is really a proposition for the modification of the terms. If these lotteries are stopped, because syndicates can no longer be found willing to take the risk of running them, a serious reduction in government revenue will be the result. And what will happen then?

THE WEATHER.

The summer this year has been an unusually trying one, the thermometer registering at times 95 degrees in the shade. There is consolation in the fact that we have not long to wait for more tolerable weather.

"ONCE FOR ALL."

AN EMPHATIC EDIT.

Following is a condensed translation of a Peking decree stating that a memorial has been received from Hsi Liang, Viceroy of the Yun-Kui provinces, complaining of the backwardness and confusion in reforms previously ordered by Imperial decree, such as army reorganization and schools of modern learning, in the instruction of officials and in the financial department in his viceroyalty, caused by the incapacity of his predecessor, Ting Chên-to. Now this is most reprehensible on the part of the last named Viceroy, who has lamentably failed in the confidence placed upon him by the Throne. Although the said Ting Chên-to is now on the retired list this does not absolve him from blame, and he is, therefore, hereby handed to the Ministry concerned for the determination of the severest penalties. Hsi Liang is further commanded to use his best efforts to save the situation and restore prosperity to the region under him. Under the difficult crisis through which the country is now passing it should be the clear duty of the Viceroys and Governors of provinces to exert themselves to assist the Throne in restoring the country to a better condition, and let it be understood once for all that the Emperor will not tolerate for a moment any laziness or lack of zeal amongst the high officials of the Empire, who will be vigorously dealt with without mercy. Those who have shown energy and ability in their high and important duties will be rewarded and commended. Under this last list are Yuan Shih-kai, Viceroy of Chihli, Tuan Fang, Viceroy of Liangkiang, and the Grand Secretary Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of Hukuang. They have used the men and the materials at their hands well and successfully, and they have shown that they have put forth their whole hearts in accomplishing the Governmental reforms expected of them. The three Viceroys, therefore, deserve the warmest appreciation and recognition from the Throne for their services. Let them continue untiringly in their efforts, and let all they do be for the advantage of those above them and the benefit of all under them. Let them lay the foundation for a wealthy and a strong Empire; for that is what their Majesties look forward to at their hands.

The "Sinwên-pao" states that it is reported from Peking that the Waiwupu in the negotiations with the British Minister, concerning the question of indemnifying British subjects for losses sustained during the riots in Shanghai about two years ago, is willing to waive its rights and pay the indemnity as a preliminary step.

H. PRICE & CO., LTD.

The first meeting of the shareholders in this newly registered company was held yesterday afternoon in the offices in Queen's Road Central. Mr. C. Moxon (chairman) presided, and there were present Messrs. J. Scott Haraton, A. Rumjahn (directors), A. E. Robin-on (manager), E. G. Moses, A. R. Lowe, Chan Kai Ming, and Lo Tsz Chun.

The Manager having read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, this meeting is purely formal and is called to comply with the Companies' Act. I have only to inform you that the Company has done fair business since its formation and the prospects are encouraging. I thank you for your attendance.

This concluded the meeting.

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING,
WEAVING & DYEING COMPANY,
LIMITED.

The report for presentation to shareholders at the tenth ordinary meeting to be held at the offices of the general managers on Saturday 14th September at 12.30 p.m., reads:—

The General Managers beg to submit a statement of accounts covering the period from 1st August, 1906, to 31st July, 1907.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account (including \$21,630.48 brought forward from last year) is \$26,769.68, to which it is proposed to add the sum of \$50,000 from equalization of dividend fund, making a total of \$76,769.68, to be appropriated as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 5 per cent for the year	\$62,500.00
To carry forward to credit of next year's account	14,269.68
	<hr/> \$76,769.68

CONSULTING COMMITTEE:

Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Mr. A. G. Wood retire, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR:

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Frank Maitland in the absence of Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offers himself for re-election.

BALANCE SHEET.

31st July, 1907.

LIABILITIES.		\$ c.
Capital account	1,250,000.00	
Sundry creditors	613,497.27	
Unclaimed dividends	3,546.80	
Equalization of dividend fund	110,000.00	
Profit and loss account	26,769.68	
	<hr/>	
	\$2,003,813.75	
ASSETS.		\$ c.
Property—comprising land, buildings and machinery	1,303,507.93	
Furniture	2,988.53	
Sundry debtors	67,537.30	
Cash	3,274.98	
Value of stock, Cotton	67,615.25	
Value of stock, Yarn	308,824.00	
Value of stock, Waste	2,398.57	
Value of stock, Mill Stores	51,352.51	
Value of stock, Coal	3,814.50	
Fire insurance and taxes pertaining to period after 31st July, 1907	1,910.18	
Advances against Yarn	191,590.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$2,003,813.75	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.

	\$ c.
To remuneration to General Managers, 10 per cent. on balance of working account	925.24
To remuneration to Consulting Committee	3,000.00
To auditor's fee	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,175.24
To balance	26,769.68
	<hr/>
	\$30,944.92

Cr.

	\$ c.
By balance from last year	21,630.48
By gain on working	9,252.44
By transfer fees	32.00
	<hr/>
	\$30,944.92

MORRISON CENTENARY MEETING.

We are informed by Archdeacon Bannister that it is proposed to hold a Morrison Centenary Meeting to be held at the City Hall on the 10th inst., and that His Excellency the Governor has promised to preside. Robert Morrison's influence on Western intercourse with the Far East will be emphasized. There will be addresses in both English and Chinese.

Sir Robert Hart has written a "historical note" entitled "Robert Morrison, 1782-1807 1834-1907," from which we make the following extracts:—

Morrison reached China in 1807, almost four decades in advance of the day that saw it opened by treaty, and yet, long before a third decade had gone by, not only had he produced his famous Dictionary and published a Chinese version of the Scriptures but he himself had rested from his labours. A man of the present age know what a task is the study of Chinese—even with all the helps we enjoy—books prepared by passed masters, skilled teachers as many as we like to employ, and unshackled liberty to go everywhere, see every place, and do everything; but what must it have been in his time! Not only were there no books to assist the student but the country was shut to strangers and it was punishable with death to associate with the foreigner and with even worse than death to initiate him into anything Chinese—manners, customs or language, much more learn of him and assist him to spread his ideas. Thousands of years of unique seclusion and an unchanging diet of home-made and unadulterated moral introspection had warped a very creditable condition of independence of others into a self sufficiency that blinded itself by shutting out sunlight and a conceit that mistook the acorn for the oak and the first gleam of discovery for the moon's blue splendour of applied knowledge. We little think to-day—we far from realise, among our present advantages, what discouragement faced the newcomer a hundred years ago, and what to succeed then meant in terms of courage, ingenuity, persistence, and hoping against hope! And it was in the midst of all that tended to kill effort and bring in despair that Morrison began, endured, and triumphed. His Dictionary may not have been the best of dictionaries, but it was the first of its kind, and for many a day the best too, and it has itself lightened the labour of every student since it appeared and will never be forgotten as the for-runner of all that followed. His translation of the Scriptures will also doubtless be found fault with by many a critic, but it not only supplied a want and ministered unto multitudes in darkness, it is also a wonderful performance for a student of Chinese of little more than ten years' standing, and it put into the hands of all who came after something to whittle into better shape, polish into greater elegance, and make fitter to be the counterpart in another tongue of the gospel.

Among English speaking Christians, how many have read the Bible through? Among ordained ministers, how many can compare our beautiful English version with the text in the original? And, yet, here was the poor boot-tree maker's son who calmly sat down to master the terrible Chinese language, who studied every word or every verse of the Scriptures, in order to put before the eyes of an alien race the message and the teaching "that mend the sorrows and the sins of men!" All who came after—merchants, missionaries, ministers—owe him a debt of gratitude, and it would be a thousand pities to let the centenary pass without seizing the opportunity it presents to do honour to his unforgetten name and in a new form and with new zeal—and in his name—carry forward the work he lived for and died in.

The occasion, too, synchronises with the new era we of this later day now see throbbing into life in this still-united China. If Morrison was one of the first Prince Charmings to call on the Sleeping Beauty to awake, shall not we of the present time, who witness the ushering in of the transformation scene, recall his abode, and credit his earlier summons with the reply these movements make, which tell the world the sleeper is alive and at last awake, and which are yet but a prelude to the firmer footing on which the future will see her stand?

Among Sinologues and Protestant missionaries Robert Morrison has always stood out in bold relief as their pioneer in China, and his beginnings set the course for all future time and made the navigation of the China sea, of language and society easier for all who come after, whether student or evangelist. From that first assault on the closed gates of an unknown land has come forth what we see in the Middle Kingdom to-day—international relations recognised, innumerable helps to the study of the language and literature, students increasing on all sides, every province a mission field and in most of them the blood of martyrs has vivified the seed of the church, missionaries that are no longer numbered by even hundreds, native Christians that will soon be spoken of in tens of thousands, and a fierce craving among the Chinese themselves for whatever the West can teach and for whatever improvement. Western advancement and Western exploits suggest. This old and seemingly unchangeable Government is opening its eyes more courageously and learning new lessons more fearlessly in the novel light of altered circumstances, and is putting forth feelers destined to bring it and its people into line with the States that are the most Christian and the most civilised. Reform is in the thought of every Chinaman, and not least audible among the cliron blasts of the day is one which foretells the disappearance, and sounds the death-knell, of China's most seductive tempter and most insidious foe; the Opium habit. Nor in this connection should it be forgotten that it was the lavish generosity of the old East India Company—the company which supplied the Chinese effective demand for opium—that supported Morrison and printed his Dictionary for students and his translation of the Scriptures for Chinese. Opium has had its work to do in the world's history, and so has Slavery, and, among much that is mysterious, the action of such agents seems to give us warning to the words of the west-singer of Israel, when he sang, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain!" Commercial relations have spread from Canton west along the coasts and waterways of China, and the inter-peoples' dealings which were hardly even tolerated, — cramped, confined, and shut up as they were in the old Factory site, — are now encouraged and welcome, and not only freed from former restraints but placed under the protection of a special Metropolitan Board created to foster and further such important and such civilising interests. Progress is in the air and its twin-sister, Promise, grows stronger daily and supplies observer and inquirer with happy auguries for a future of fullest accomplishment and fruition.

Soon after Morrison's death, which occurred in 1834, the Chinese Repository—that richest of literary storehouses—published in 1836, exactly three score years and ten ago, an article of the "Looking Forward" type, contrasting the possible China of 1907 with the China of the year. It says:—

"Are the Chinese to retain forever their exclusive policy? . . . Will they never give admission to improvements? . . . If a change does take place, into what state will it bring them? . . . Will China become a Christian nation?"

"The future is unknown, but, when He speaks who seeth the end from the beginning, our darkness ceases. . . . In the year 1907 . . . their places of worship will present a different appearance. . . . The idols will be removed. . . . Their war junks and forts will be dismantled. . . . The Sabbath will be observed. . . . They will cease to be ignorant. . . . Those who now possess the Gospel will have free intercourse with China and communicate to them the useful knowledge of the Western world. Rail-roads and steamers, and machinery will be common in China. . . . If we, then, are labouring for the introduction of the truth among the Chinese we do not labour in vain. . . . No, it is for an object which will be accomplished, for God has spoken it: an object which is worthy of our highest efforts and most untiring zeal. Behold these shall come from afar, and, lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Sinim!"

The forecast is coming true and there are still better things to follow. But as for the

dismantled junks and forts they will probably be replaced by battle-ships and sub-marines. While the pendulum of circumstance swings between the funk of the weakling and the hectoring of the strong, might has its mis on, protecting the strong man's house and teaching application of truth that even the worship of right in the abstract will fail to procure hearing for, and China is now launched on this new voyage: will she find the Fortunate Isles, or may she not be starting on an adventure more likely to end in the division that weakens than in the unbroken unity which has been the concomitant of all these years of the Empire's pursuit of that ideal which places right above might and the peaceful scholar over the strong-limbed warrior? History will inscribe many a name upon the roll of fame, neglecting most of the stones that go to make up the mountain but recording the massive boulders that ornament its flank, and one such will always be in these Eastern times the name of Robert Morrison.

Singularly enough the Repository on my table bears the signature of one of Morrison's sons—"M. Crofton Morrison 1841." I knew Crofton Morrison, a quiet, shy man, in the early sixties as British Consul at Chefoo, and I served under a younger brother of his, George Morrison who was an assistant in the Superintendency of Trade at Hongkong when Sir John Bowring was Governor there in the year 1854: so that, having been in touch with the Morrison family half a century ago in a more intimate sense than perhaps any survivors from of late times still in China can claim, it is both a pleasing duty and an appreciated honour to testify at this distance to the sterling worth of the great missionary, Dictionary Morrison, and to wish every success to the joint effort now started to pass on his name to future ages in connection with a richly equipped institution for promoting friendliness of intercourse with China, and for holding high the unextinguishable lamp of Christian truth and Christian civilization in the great, interesting, and influential city of Canton, the bewitching Queen of the Pearl River.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Board Room, on the 13th August 1907.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, Haang Tsan-ee-aw, W. Kruse, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

1. The minutes of the last meeting are read and confirmed.

2. On the motion of Mr. Kruse it is decided to call on the owner of the vacant plot of land below the Union Church and opposite the New Amoy Hotel, to have a wall built on the "hill" side of the property, to ensure the safety of the public using the road from Lin Tow to the Union Church.

3. A letter is read from the China Light and Power Co. Ltd., asking the Council to grant them power to supply the Island with electric light and power. The Secretary is directed to inform them the Council will be prepared to favourably consider an application from the Company and request them to forward at an early date more detailed conditions of their proposals.

4. It is decided to take action against Oe-ah-ko unless the obstruction he has built at both ends of Hill side Lane, La-kee-tah, is at once removed.

5. The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with in the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—Summonses.—Debt 5, Assault 2, Selling meat not slaughtered in the Municipal Slaughter House 1, Obstructing the public road 1, Contempt of Court 1, Carrying out a burial without a permit 1, Allowing pigs to stray 1, Breach of Municipal Regulations 2. Summary Arrests.—Conspiring to prevent servants taking service 2, Breach of prison regulation 1, Theft 2, Assisting prisoners to escape 1, Assault 1, Attempt to murder 1, Gambling 1.

(Signed) W. H. WALLACE,
Chairman.

By Order,
C. BERKELEY MITCHELL,
Secretary.

CHINESE JOSS PIDJIN.

FRIGHTENING AWAY THE CHOLERA DEMONS.

The *Singapore Free Press* of August, 28 reports:—A unique and most interesting ceremony took place at the ricksha coolie depots in Ophir Road, off Queen Street, yesterday afternoon. A number of cases of cholera have occurred in these depots lately, and several cases in the immediate vicinity. The coolies and towkays organised a grand festival for the purpose of frightening away from Singapore the cholera demons. About \$5,000 were collected among the towkays and coolies, and for the past ten days, or so, quaint ceremonies have been carried on. On three nights, processions paraded the various streets. The coolies were busy in the meantime building four model junks to carry away the cholera fiends.

The celebrations were brought to a close yesterday afternoon amidst much excitement, and in view of several hundreds of Chinese. The clans participating in the clearing out of the devils were the Hockchews, Hockchas and the Hengwahs. The ghost ships were made of bamboo and paper and were really works of art. They were cleverly made of various coloured paper, and in shape were exactly like Chinese junks. Two of the craft were about fifteen feet in length and one, the smartest of the lot, was over twenty feet long and broad in proportion. The final ceremony commenced at four o'clock. The three vessels were drawn into the roadway, the two smaller ones were carried and the large one was drawn on wheels. The sails, made of yellow paper, were then hoisted. The leading vessel had as a figure-head, a dragon with a flaming wide open mouth. On tables placed near the ships were candles, roast ducks, fowls, pigs, goats, fruit and cakes. Numerous sheets of sacrificial paper were burned and hundreds of crackers and bombs were let off. About two score ricksha coolies were dressed as demons with grotesquely painted faces. Some of their faces were red, blue, black, green and yellow, and were streaked with white. They were armed with spears and spiked clubs and many had horns fastened on to their heads. They were a fierce looking lot and formed a bodyguard for the fleet. One gigantic Chinaman carried a huge wooden sword and apparently represented an executioner. Several monks in gay robes were chanting prayers round the "joss," inside the principal depot. To the accompaniment of Chinese music. Every few minutes they uttered long drawn out "oughs" in which they were joined by the demoniacal bodyguard, while numerous other Chinese blew bamboo-horns. It was a weird spectacle.

Leaning on one of the "joss" tables in the roadway, was a stalwart coolie who appeared to be in a trance. He was in a state of frenzy and rolled his eyes till only the whites were visible. It was explained that he was possessed of a spirit—a god had entered into him. He gesticulated wildly and was believed to be communing with the spirits of the departed. Any one whose friends or relations had died could converse with them through him. He was certainly not shamming. To the writer he appeared to be mad, but a medical gentleman present said, in his opinion, the man was in a trance. He went on unceasingly and untiringly.

The vessels were loaded up with paper money, candles, crackers, fruit and rice. In the largest junk were placed a white pup, a grey kitten, a cock, a duck and a couple of white pigeons. The monks then assembled in front of the largest ship and chanted prayers, while the bodyguard knelt down in the road. The head monk picked up a sharp steel sword and fought a duel with an unseen spirit. He worked himself into a state of frenzy, and the crowd of on-lookers stepped back in awe. The monk then picked up a cock, and holding it in his left hand and the sword in his right danced about and gesticulated wildly. After some minutes he put the weapon down and pricked the cock's comb with a finger nail. A drop of blood was taken and was mixed with Chinese red ink. The fowl was then put under a joss table and after more incantations had been droned, the high priest mounted on a stool and dabbed the figure head and other parts of the boat with the mixture. He then returned to the joss table and exhorted the demons to depart in the vessels.

The men demons raised pandemonium with their yells of "ough," bamboo horns and banging of drums and clashing of cymbals. The spectators joined in the noise. The Chief Sanitary Inspector was present and seemed to be assisting in the devil hunting. He expressed his desire of helping in anything that would drive away the cholera.

These exhortations continued till six o'clock and a fourth and much smaller vessel then made its appearance. It was apparently a tender to the bigger craft. The chief monk seized the small boat and carried it into the depot. The idea was to take the devils out to the fleet, but this apparently did not meet with their approval. The little vessel tossed and rocked, round the room, but the devils would not come out to the bigger ships. One priest endeavoured to coax the tiny ship out by means of bright papers on the end of a pole, while another priest tried to drive it out with a drawn sword. They sprang back when the boat turned on them. The excitement was great, and the "oughs" were deafening. Several times the boat got as far as the entrance, but returned again and careered wildly round the room. After fully twenty minutes of pitching and tossing the boat was driven and coaxed out. It careered round the fleet, and then dashed back to the depot again. Eventually, the devils were persuaded to leave the depot and the tender made five stormy trips to and from the big junk amidst the wildest excitement. The devils were represented by black, red, blue, green and yellow effigies and they were all put on board at last. The tender then took up a position at the head of the procession and after manoeuvring about wildly for some time started off in the direction of Rochore Canal Road. The other vessels and the procession followed it with a rush, and a huge roar went up from the assembled hundreds. After a short mad, yelling rush, a stop was made at a landing stage at the Rochore river. Hundreds of bombs and crackers were let off and the gongs and drums were banged madly. The men dressed as demons tore off their devil clothes and washed their faces. The head monk waved his sword in the direction of the river and exhorted the devils to depart. The fleet were then set on fire one by one. The tender was burned first and the biggest ship last. The flames roared and crackled and burned fiercely and the ceremony was at an end. Our representative, who was watching very carefully, did not see the animals and birds taken out of the big junk before she was set alight and believes that they were burned to death. The towkays, however, assured him that they were removed before fire was put to the vessels. Perhaps they are afraid of enquiries by the police.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 28th August, 1907.—Business reported since the 14th inst., is as under:—

	1907.	1906.
Settlements ...	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Shipments to Shanghai	1,565	2,990
on Native account	nil	3,691

The following are Statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 29th August, 1906.

	1907.	1906.
HANKOW TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	177,578	372,470
Shipments to Shanghai	4,900	27,815
on Native account	24,766	17,700
Stock ...	507,244	447,985

	1907.	1906.
KIUKIANG TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	181,316	158,018
Shipments to Shanghai	nil	4,985
on Native account	15,383	8,194
Stock ...	196,699	171,197

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, September 5th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$780	to —	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$840	to —	do.
Malwa Older	\$830	to —	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$900	to —	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$700	to —	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$750	to —	do.
Patna New	—	to —	per chest.
Patna Old	\$810	to —	do.
Benares New	\$805	to —	do.
Benares Old	\$800	to —	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated August 29th, 1907, has the following:—Japan.—This market has been pretty active during the past fortnight and a fair amount has been settled with native dealers, as stocks are still rather short in Shanghai. In Japan stocks are getting so low that they are trying to re-purchase some of their sales to this port. Cardiff.—Is at a standstill, very little stock left and prices very firm. Sydney, Wollongong.—Nothing new since last fortnight.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 5th September, state that 18 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 58,000 tons of coal. Since Aug. 25th, 11 steamers have arrived with a total of 38,700 tons of coal.

A small sale of Australian is reported on private terms. Small business doing in Japanese at \$7.25 to \$7.75 per ton. Other kinds neglected. Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$14.00 to 15.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$11.50 to \$12.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 nominal.
Miki Lump	\$10.00 nominal.
Moji Lump	\$6.50 to \$8.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$7.50 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$7.75 to \$8.00 steady.
Labuan Lump	\$8.00 nominal.

RAW COTTON.

HONGKONG, 6th September.—Fair business put through. Stock about 1,400 bales.

Bombay	\$17.00 to \$20.00 per picul.
Bengal (New), Raugoon	20.00 to 22.50 ..
and Dacca	25.00 to 26.00 ..
Shanghai and Japanese	25.00 to 26.00 ..
Tungchow and Ningpo	25.00 to 26.00 ..
Reported sales, 400 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated Hongkong, 6th September, 1907, states:—The midsummer festival has interfered with business which has been further checked by the steadiness in exchange. The volume of business done during the interval consequently has been small and confined to actual and urgent requirements. Prices show a depreciation of 50 cents to \$2 per bale—No. 10s suffering the most—but are again steady at the close. Arrivals during the interval are large and our stocks are heavily augmented. Bombay continues strong, most of the mills having booked sufficient orders from Manchester and the Levant to keep them running for several months. The market closes quiet. Sales of the interval aggregate 2,274 bales, arrivals amount to 13,595, unsold stocks estimated at 41,000 and sold but uncleared goods in second hands about 27,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—Continues quiet. At the tenth annual general meeting of shareholders held this week, the Directors of the local Mill have declared a dividend of 5 per cent. on last year's working. Japanese Yarn:—Sales reported are 100 bales No. 10s at \$118 to \$122, and 250 bales No. 20s at \$126 to \$126½. Raw Cotton:—Despite the fluctuations on the other side the market for the raw material continues inanimate, and the business of the fortnight comprises the sale of 215 bales superfine Bengals at from \$19 to 20; and of 95 bales Chinese at \$23½. Stocks estimated at 1,875 bales Indian and 460 bales China kinds. Quotations are Bengals \$16 to \$20 and China \$22 to \$24½. Exchange on India, after showing some fluctuations, closes steady to-day at Rs. 106 for T/T and Rs. 106½ for Post. On Shanghai 73 and Japan 108½. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 31st ultimo, viz.:—Indian:—Market dull with a decline of one Tael in price. Total sales about 2,750 bales with an estimated stock of 125,000 bales. Japanese:—Continues in request and about 2,000 bales have changed hands on the basis of Tls. 83½ to 89½ for No. 10s and Tls. 89½ to 94½ for No. 20s. Local:—Nothing doing.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 30th August, 1907, states:—Our market has so far shown no signs of renewed activity, each successive week being more dull, if it were possible, than its predecessor. On all sides the report has been that there is no enquiry and clearances of former purchases are very poor. The dealers are still watching the course of the cotton market, and if it continues to show the strength it has during this last week there should soon be some proof of the assertion quoted in our last that they would commence buying for the Spring in that event. So far, however, they have abstained from even making enquiries, or even to offer for stocks at present here, which could be obtained on much more favourable terms than fresh shipments can be supplied at, and there are many willing sellers at covering rates. Prospects continue to improve, so far as this country is concerned, for the crops everywhere in China Proper are progressing satisfactorily. Already there is a perceptible decline in the price of rice, and other crops are equally promising. Of course we are not yet out of the wood: the typhoon season is now commencing and there is no telling what may happen before the crops are harvested, so it is only prudent to wait a little longer before trading on the profits that may never eventuate. That is evidently what consumers are doing, hence the dulness of all import markets. There is still no news of interest from our dependencies. Newchwang is said to be looking up a little and produce is beginning to come down, for which imports are taken in exchange. The state of the place, however, is not at all satisfactory and reflects practically what is the case all through Manchuria. The war notes have all disappeared and in their place the country is flooded with Japanese bank notes, which it is impossible to convert into silver, and are really only negotiable as currency in payment for Japanese goods. As regards these, more particularly cotton fabrics, suppliers are getting tired of selling at unremunerative rates and have recently made a considerable advance in their selling prices, which will put them more on the level with American goods and then the quality and lasting power will be bound to tell in the long run; but still it is weary waiting until these experimental stages are passed. It is said some re-sales American makes have been made at that port to the country merchants, but we have not been able to glean the particulars. Nothing has been brought here. Tientsin is in a very uncertain state; in some quarters quite a satisfactory business is being done, and this is certainly borne out by the re-exports from here in that direction, whereas others describe the market as rotten, and are no doubt those who have had to make direct importations, costing considerably more than similar goods could be bought here at, and which are new underselling the stocks held by direct importers and so the endless chain is becoming clogged. Further instances are mentioned this week of buying in New York at prices greatly over what the goods could be obtained here at, comprising small lots of Pepperell 2.55 and Prescott 3.25 yard drills. It is reported by letter that 500 bales 3.25 yard drills were bought for this market at 11s. 10d. early shipment, so that they will be leaving about the time that 3-yard goods sold back to New York at 10s. 9d. are arriving! Shipments to the river markets continue only fairly satisfactorily, but will no doubt improve now that navigation on the upper reaches is being resumed. Whether or no the prohibition in export cereals will effect the import market remains to be seen, but probably will not apply to shipments to other ports of China.

Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s weekly report dated Shanghai, August 29th, 1907, has the following:—Our market continues much in the same state as reported last week, clearances from stock proceeding fairly briskly but no fresh orders coming out. Demand of any sort is in fact very quiet and late in evincing itself; owing to absence of any buying of an anticipatory nature this season the off-take is dependent solely upon the actual momentary requirements of the country, which of course augurs well for business upon a healthy basis when stocks get down to the point which admits of the level of values being brought to somewhat nearer replacing prices than is the case at present in nearly all staple goods. The attitude of the native banks in the matter of credit facilities to their clients has further tended to limit business, the bad state of trade this year,

in one important outlet alone, namely Hankow, having reduced the number of native merchant houses from twenty there in 1905, to eight only. The extreme reserve, however, on the part of the banks will probably relax as money becomes easier with the marketing of the crops, and admit of some expansion of the strictly hand to mouth trade which is at present being carried on. The long deferred demand from Korea has at length set in to some extent, and fair shipments have gone forward during the week, both of Staples and Dyed and Fancy goods. In American goods the firm attitude of holders has practically stopped transactions for the time being, the present price of 3-yard Sheetings for best known brands being Tls. 3.90 against a replacing cost of Tls. 4.50 for distant shipments, while in other weights of coarse Sheetings the disparity is even greater.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th Sept.—The Prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN.—Market has ruled inactive and a limited business has been done at a reduction of \$2 to \$3 per bale. Quotations are:—No. 10s at \$70 to \$91; No. 16s at \$92 to \$129; and No. 20s at \$94 to \$136. Arrival: 21,000 bales; Sales 2,500 bales; Shipments 85,000 bales; Bargains 38,000 bales; Unsold stock 43,000 bales.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s ... to —
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... to —
" 22 to 24, ... to —
" 28 to 32, ... to —
" 38 to 42, ... to —

COTTON PIECE GOODS—No change; Market quiet.

Grey Shirtings—7 lbs. \$2.35 to \$2.55
8.4 lbs. 2.95 to 4.05
9 to 10 lbs. 3.90 to 5.05
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.70 to 3.25
58 to 60 " 3.25 to 4.00
64 to 66 " 4.00 to 5.50
Fine 4.50 to 9.00
Book-folds 3.50 to 5.75
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.65 to 1.25
T-Cloths—6 lbs. 32 in. (Ord'y) 2.00 to 2.20
7 lbs. 32 " 2.30 to 3.35
8 lbs. 32 " (Mexs). ... 3.85
7 lbs. 32 " 2.40 to 3.85
8 to 8.4 oz., 36 in. 3.10 to 4.00
Drills, English—40 yds. } 4.40 to 5.00
13½ to 14 }

FANCY COTTON—No change; Market quiet.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to } per piece
8 lbs. } \$1.75 to \$3.90

Brocades—Dyed per yard \$0.11 to \$0.13
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to 0.13
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.21 to 0.43
Velveteens—18 in. 0.20 to 0.24

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk \$0.50 to \$1.10
WOOLLENS—No change; Market quiet.

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops \$0.70 to \$2.00
German 0.55 to 0.75
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths, 1.25 to 3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. \$6.35 to \$9.00
Assorted 6.50 to 9.15
Camlets—Assorted 9.00 to 30.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } 12.50 to 19.00
Assorted }

Orleans—Plain 11.00 —
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. \$0.65 to \$1.50

METALS—per picul

Iron—Nail Rod \$4.00
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)... 3.95
Swedish Bar 4.05
Small Round Rod 4.30
Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 5.60
Wire, 16 25 oz. ... 9.50
Wire Rope, Old 3.00
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop ... 11.00
Australian 11.00
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 28 oz. 41.00
Vivian's, 16/32 oz., 41.00
Elliot's, 16/28 oz. 41.00

Composition Nails, —
Tin, 98.00

Tin-Plates, per box \$7.20

Quicksilver, per picul \$106.00 to 109.00

Window Glass, per box, 4.00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 28th August, 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected Tls. 34.50
Do. Seconds " 31.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected " 22.75
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour " —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each " —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi " 9.70
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu " 7.80
Green China Grass, Szechuen " —
Jute " 11.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow " —
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingcheu and/or Macheng " —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu " 11.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu " 11.00
Animal Tallow " 14.00
Gallnuts, usual shape " 18.00
Gallnuts, plum do. " —
Tobacco, Tingchow " —
Tobacco, Wongkong " —
Turmeric " 5.25
Sesamum Seed " 9.20
Sesamum Seed Oil " —
Tea Oil " —

Per steamer *Kintuck*, sailed on 27th August, 1907. For London:—16 cases bristles, 670 bales canes and mats, 50 cases china and blackwood ware, 200 cases preserves, 150 casks soy, 150 cases staranised. For London/Continent:—200 bales canes, 20 bales feathers, 100 cases staranised. For Hamburg:—10 cases bristles, 30 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—130 rolls matting, 100 cases ginger. For Antwerp:—120 bales feathers, 100 cases gallnuts.

Per steamer *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, sailed on 28th August. For Naples:—50 bales waste silk. For Genoa:—613 bales raw silk, 350 bales waste silk, 250 bales hemp, 10 cases staranised, 9 cases cigars, 7 cases hats. For Antwerp:—250 bales hemp, 77 rolls matting, 16 cases chinaware. For Amsterdam:—7 cases cigars. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—100 cases bristles, 5 bales tea mats. For Rotterdam:—22 cases chinaware. For Bremen:—150 rolls matting, 58 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—300 cases cassia, 242 boxes ginger, 136 bales feathers, 79 cases bristles, 30 cases human hair, 20 cases essential oil, 11 cases curios, 10 bales rattancore, 9 cases blackwoodware, 8 casks ginger, 8 cases cigars, 5 cases chinapaper, 3 cases feathers, 3 rolls mats, 2 cases chinaware. For London:—2 cases cigars.

Per steamer *Sunda*, sailed on 29th August, 1907. For Glasgow:—8 cases chinaware, 1 case wood ware. For Manchester:—110 bales waste silk. For London:—9 cases ginger, 1,604 packages tea, 2 cases ivory, 1 case silk, 5 packages private effects, 1 case opium, 100 casks preserves, 46 boxes chinaware, 16 packages wood ware. For Marseilles:—268 cases pierced cocoons. For London opt. Continent:—200 packages preserves, 20 cases bristles, 20 cases essential oil.

Per M. M. steamer *Polynesian*, sailed on 3rd September. For Marseilles:—309 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 4 cases silk piece goods, 32 packages human hair, 5 cases feathers, 21 cases ilang ilang oil, 608 cases tea, 1 case hats, 21 cases cigars, 3 cases silverware, 40 cases Joss sticks, 9 packages sundries. For Lyons:—724 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—35 bales raw silk. For Barcelona:—15 bales raw silk, 130 rolls matting. For Valencia:—15 bales raw silk. For Milan:—25 bales raw silk. For London:—75 bales waste silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 29th August, 1907, states:—Business since our last issue has been exceedingly quiet. The settlement which taken place to-day is of the most meagre description and altogether business in shares during this month has been very small, and there is nothing of interest to report. The T. T. on London to-day is 3s. 0½d., Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. In the absence of business we quote rates as before, viz: \$655 and \$510 for the old and new issue, respectively. Insurance.—There is nothing reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. There are buyers at Tls. 30 and Tls. 21 for preference and deferred shares respectively, also a demand has arisen for forward

shares, but business is very restricted in this stock, and we hear of none having changed hands. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. Shares are quoted at Tls. 47½ and Tls. 47¼ for the ordinary and preference respectively. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd. There is no business reported. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Very small quantities have changed hands at Tls. 221 and Tls. 22¼ for September. The market is steady at quotations. Sugar Co.—There is no business reported. Mining.—There is no business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have changed hands during the week at Tls. 101. Industrial.—Cottons.—The only business this week is a sale of Ewo at Tls. 66 for September. Shanghai Gas Co. There are sellers at Tls. 110. Green Island Cement Co. Shares have been placed at \$11. Matschappij, etc., in Langkat. Shares were dealt in at Tls. 312¼ for cash and the market closes strong with buyers at this figure. For September we quote Tls. 317¼ buyers. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co. On the publication of an interim dividend of 25 per cent. some shares were taken off the market at Tls. 120. Miscellaneous.—The Central Stores new issue have changed hands at \$13½. Weeks & Co. Some small lots were dealt in at \$21½, closing with sellers. Hall & Holtz. There are a fair number of shares on offer at \$21½. Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Shares have been placed at Tls. 55. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. There are sellers at quotations, and possibly a little under.

HONGKONG, 6th September, 1907.—Very little business has been transacted during the past week, and rates, with few exceptions, show no material change. Exchange on London closes at 2/2½ T.T., and on Shanghai at 73 T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled quiet but steady at \$647½ old, and \$507½ new. London quotes £78 old ex div., and £81 new, £15 paid up. Nationals are unchanged at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at \$770 down to \$760, at which latter rate, however, there are buyers. North Chinas, after sales at Tls. 75, improved to Tls. 77½, but at the latter rate our market closes with small sellers. China Traders continue in request at \$90, but Cantons and Yangtszes are obtainable at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—A sale of Chinas is reported at \$87, but at this rate there are further sellers. Hongkong continue on offer at \$315.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are unchanged with sellers at \$28. Indos are still in demand at \$39 for the preferred, and \$28 deferred conjointly, but these rates do not apparently tempt holders. China and Manilas can still be placed at \$15, and shell Transporters at the improved rate of 45/- Star Ferries (old) have declined to \$20 with sales, and the new issue to \$12 with sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue on offer at \$98, and Luzons at \$21.

MINING.—A fair business is reported in Raubs at \$7, and more shares are enquired for. Charbonnages are wanted at \$470 ex the final dividend of Tls. 35 (Conpon No. 13) paid on the 2nd instant in Paris.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have steadily improved with but small sales to \$105, at which the market closes steady. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves, after sales at \$65, have declined to \$63 with sellers. Shanghai Docks are easier in the north at Tls. 79, but Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have firmed up and are now quoted at Tls. 226.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue on offer at \$98, and Kowloon Lands are now procurable at \$36. Hongkong Hotels are still enquired for at \$100, but no shares appear to be available at the rate. Humphrey's Estates have been booked and more shares are wanted at \$10½.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong are on offer at \$11 but without business. Ewos are quoted at Tls. 65, Internationals at Tls. 52, Laou Kung Mows at Tls. 90 and Soy Chees at Tls. 300.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been booked at \$94, and China Providents at \$8.90. Green Island Cements are firm with sales and further buyers at \$10½, but with no sellers under \$11. Ropes have improved to \$25 buyers, and China Light and Powers to \$6 with sales and further buyers. Watsons, after sales at \$11½ and \$11¼, have declined to \$11 with sellers.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$647½, sellers \$507½, sellers Ln. £78, x.d. Ln. £81, (£15, paid up)
National B. of China	20	\$51
Bell's Asbestos F. A.	12s. 6d.	\$61
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$94, sales
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$8, sales & sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$8.90
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 65
Hongkong	\$10	\$11, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 52
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Soychee	Tls. 300	Tls. 300
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$63, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$105
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$114, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 79
Shanghai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 226
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$17, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$17½, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14, sellers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$270, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$87, sales & sel.
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 77½, sellers
Union	\$100	\$760, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$175
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$98, sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10½, sales & buy.
Kowloon Land & H.	\$30	\$36
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 102
West Point Building	\$50	\$48
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fes. 250	\$470, x.d., buyers
Raubs	18, 10	\$7, buyers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$114, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$1.60, (new) buy.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$98, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$41
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$28, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$5	\$39, Prefd. buy.
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	\$28, Defd. buy.
Star Ferry	\$10	44½, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$20, sales
South China M. Post	\$25	\$12, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$22
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$64, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$21
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, September 6th.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/3
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/3½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3½

ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	279½
Credits 4 months' sight	285
ON GERMANY.—On demand	227½
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	54½
Credits, 60 days' sight	55½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	166
Bank, on demand	166½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	166
Bank on demand	166½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	108½
ON MANILA.—On demand	108½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	5½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	133½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	3½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	3½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	67
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 8.95
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$47.30
BAR SILVER, per oz	31½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

	per cent.
Chinese 20 cents pieces	\$6.50 discount.
" 10 " "	7.50 "
Hongkong 20 " "	6.35 "
" 10 " "	6.40 "

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 23rd August.—Business Coastwise is very dull, with only a limited demand for tonnage. From Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents last; to Philippines, several boats fixed at 25 cents for small parcels of 20,000 piculs and at 22½ cents for 28,000 piculs; to Java, 20 cents nominal. From Bangkok to Hongkong, 27 and 20 cents per picul last. From Newchwang to Canton, no inquiry. From North Coast Java to Hongkong 30 cents last. From Iloilo to Yangtze ports, two fixtures, one at 33 cents for Chinkiang and 32 cents Ningpo and the other on a lump sum basis as below. Coal freights are weak. From South Japan Coal Port to Hongkong, \$1.45 per ton; to Singapore, \$1.65 per ton; to Canton, \$2.00. From Hongay to Hongkong, at \$1.25; to Canton, \$1.75. Timber. From Rajang to Hongkong, a handy sized carrier fixed on a lump sum basis. The following are the settlements:—
Orland—Norwegian steamer, 917 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$12,350 lump sum.
Yatshing—British steamer, 1,434 tons, Moji to Hongkong and Canton, \$1.50 and \$2.20 per ton.
Landrat Scheif—German steamer, 1,012 tons, Hongay to Pulo Brani, \$2.35 per ton.
Tingsang—British steamer, 1,045 tons, Touron to Shanghai, \$2.25 per ton.
Tolr—Norwegian steamer, 740 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 27/20 cents per picul.
Proft—Norwegian steamer, 715 tons, Iloilo to Chinkiang, \$5,750, Ningpo or Shanghai, \$5,250, 2 ports, \$6,250 lump sum.
Heimdal—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines (28,000), 22½ cents per picul.
Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines, 24 cents per picul.
Spir—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
Fiume—German steamer, 838 tons, Saigon to Iloilo, 25 cents per picul.
Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents, Swatow, 18 cents per picul.
Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Taishan—British steamer, 1,122 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated August 29th, 1907, has the following:—There is no improvement to report in our Homeward Freight Market since last writing, and there is very little cargo being shipped outside of tea at this season of the year. Coastwise.—Although rates are still "rotten" on the coast there are signs of an improvement setting in and by the end of next month, when the new rice crop from the Yangtze River Ports comes on the market, the "liners" should find themselves kept fairly busy, but it is impossible as yet to say whether this will benefit outsiders to any great extent.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August—

ARRIVALS.

- 29, Forestdale, British str., from Java.
 29, Vancouver, British str., from Newcastle.
 29, Wynerio, British str., from Manila.
 30, Fooshing, British str., from Moji.
 30, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 30, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 30, Tjibodas, Dutch str., from Amoy.
 31, Fukuoka Maru, Jap. str., from Amoy.
 31, Orland, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 31, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.

September—

- 1, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 1, Kwangse, British str., from Swatow.
 1, Polynesien, French str., from Shanghai.
 1, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
 1, Sullberg, German str., from Swatow.
 1, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 2, Amoy, German str., from Quin Hon.
 2, Australien, French str., from Marseilles.
 2, Benvenue, British str., from Singapore.
 2, Courtfield, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 2, Manila, British str., from Antwerp.
 2, Menelaus, British str., from Singapore.
 2, Palembang, Dutch str., from Polo Sambo.
 2, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 2, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 2, Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
 2, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
 3, Aldenham, British str., from Melbourne.
 3, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 3, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 3, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
 3, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
 3, Fukura Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 3, Gregory Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 3, Lauschan, German str., from Saigon.
 3, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 3, Phuyen, French str., from Saigon.
 3, Powhatan, British str., from Salina Cruz.
 3, Yatsing, British str., from Moji.
 3, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Manila.
 4, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 4, Habsburg, German str., from Shanghai.
 4, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 4, Huichow, British str., from Swatow.
 4, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
 4, J. Diederichsen, Ger., from Baran River.
 4, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 4, Manchuria, Am. str., from San Francisco.
 4, Pera, British str., from Singapore.
 4, Rajaburi, German str., from Kuchinotzu.
 4, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 4, Suisang, British str., from Saigon.
 4, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 4, Titau, British str., from Manila.
 4, Tainan, British str., from Kobe.
 4, Wingsang, British str., from Karatsu.
 4, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 5, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 5, Japan, British str., from Moji.
 5, Joshi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 5, Marmora, British str., from Shanghai.
 5, Siam, British str., from Shanghai.

August—

DEPARTURES.

- 30, Amara, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Chaterinoslar, Rus. str., for Shanghai.
 31, Glenfarg, British str., for Karatsu.
 30, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 30, Landrat Schieff, Ger. str., for Saigon.
 30, Leosok, German str., for Swatow.
 30, Priam, British str., for Saigon.
 30, Rhenania, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, Shibetoro Maru, Jap. str., for Sourabaya.
 31, Skramstad, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 31, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 31, Chinkiang, British str., for Amoy.
 31, Chowtai, German str., for Swatow.
 31, Drufar, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 31, Eastern, Brit. str., for Australian Ports.
 31, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 31, Leongsang, British str., for Manila.
 31, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 31, Shaohsing, British str., for Swatow.
 31, Siberia, American str., for San Francisco.
 31, Vorwaerts, German str., for Hoihow.

September—

- 1, Bourbon, British str., for Saigon.
 1, Cheongshing, British str., for Tientsin.
 1, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Tsingtau.
 1, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 1, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
 1, Waishing, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
 2, Australien, French str., for Shanghai.

- 3, Alesia, German str., for Moji.
 3, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
 3, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 3, Hwangang, British str., for Swatow.
 3, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
 3, Kumsang, British str., for Singapore.
 3, Kwangse, British str., for Hongkong.
 3, Lauschan, German str., for Yokohama.
 3, Polynesien, French str., for Europe, &c.
 3, Sullberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 3, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 4, Benvenue, British str., for Nagasaki.
 4, Bingo Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
 4, Fukuoka Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 4, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.
 4, Indravelli, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Linan, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Manila, British str., for Yokohama.
 4, Vancouver, Brit. str., for Newcastle N.S.W.
 4, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 5, Chihli, British str., for Hoihow.
 5, Menelaus, German str., for Shanghai.
 5, Phenpaph, British str., for Saigon.
 5, Tango Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 5, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Batavia.
 5, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 5, Yatsing, British str., for Foochow.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Delta*, from Bombay and Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Ellis, Misses M. Campbell and A. C. Land, Asst. Civil Engr. Brighton, Messrs. Madan, Ahmed Zaidan, A. H. Dedams, Watkinson, J. Dickie, K. Wilkinson, R. H. Clark, T. Ramsay, A. Mackenzie, C. H. Fay, H. H. King, W. D. Graham, W. G. Symons and native servant, T. W. Kong, J. G. Birrell, B. T. Pridemore, D. A. Bham, Perpetio & Khan.

Per *Marmora*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Sommers, child, infant and ayah, Messrs. J. Stewart, N. M. Somjee and servant, C. E. Ness, Wodehouse and Halcock; for Singapore, Dr. G. E. Goode, Messrs. S. B. Neill and servant and J. Hodggrass; from Kobe, for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Horkham; from Yokohama, for Singapore, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Macdonald, and Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P.; for Brindisi via India, Misses F. Berne and G. Ingram; for Marseilles, Mrs. Abbott and child; for London, Misses K. Cutler and D. Cutler.

Per *Australien*, for Hongkong, from Colombo Mr. Pasquier; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Cibo, Le Père Robert, Mrs. Ture and infant; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs. Lévy, Miss Sylvia Salency, Miss Hélène Paris, Messrs. Médara, Karl Kastrop, P. Brunel and W. Bissett; from Singapore, Mr. Gabriel Guinberg; from Saigon, Messrs. H. Monod, Quentel, C. Millou and Antomich; for Kobe, from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Fischer; for Yokohama, from Saigon, Mrs. Grémazy, Messrs. Luang Vientz Kosa and François.

Per *Polynesien*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs. Marty and infant, Miss C. Marty; from Kobe, Messrs. E. Smitty and Hansen; from Shanghai, Mrs. Brainard, Messrs. A. Gires, Bruce, Veltou, Gutierrez and Durana; for Saigon, from Yokohama, Mr. Lawrence; from Shanghai, Mrs. Green; for Singapore, from Kobe, Mr. and Miss Osada, Miss Nishio; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Haven and 3 infants, Misses Kittin and Stinberg, Mr. Jalor; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. Spencer; from Shanghai, Messrs. Ruttonjee and Gretchi Felice; for Port Said, from Shanghai, Mr. Papadopoulos; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. Bickart, Tanakadate and Nicholas; from Shanghai, Messrs. Sutean, Decormis, Mariote, Pouthon, Daniel, Bescord, Castaing, Le Bars and Vande.

Per *Manchuria*, for Hongkong, from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Cake, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Bonnor, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Chan, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Collins, Dr. and Mrs. D. Barrows, Dr. Mrs. and Master F. W. F. Weber, Mrs. L. J. Donnell, Misses (2) E. Barrows, (2) M. Chan, D. Bonnor, B. Bonnor, F. Bonnor, H. Barrows, E. Hibbard, C. R. Donaldson, M. McCann and E. K. von Tine, Rev. A. C. Walkup, Master T. Barrows, Messrs. L. E. Bement, A. C. Taft, W. W. Coon, R. M. Lowe, W. R. Barnes, T. S. Hegard, H. T. Mohler, R. Morgan, R. Rosenbluth, E. L. Seymour, P. S. Sturdivant, P. Whitman, A. M. Wiley and C. G. Stockholm; from Yokohama, Dr. D. B. Todd and Mr. R. S. Crombie; from Shanghai, Messrs. D. S. Ching and native servant, M. Tan and F. Hazen.

Per *Aldenham*, from Melbourne, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Engel and 2 children, Mrs. Sloss, Messrs. J. G. Thomas, H. Lee, B. S. Griffin, H. H. Baily, W. A. Wickline, B. Thompson and J. Jacka.

Per *Tamba Maru*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. H. Michell, A. Cunningham, A. Scott, H. Shadeelse, C. van den Heuval, D. van den Heuval, C. Kaiser, Ch. van Oorschot, P. Kenniphias, John Burns and S. Fukatsu; for Kobe, Mr. T. Nakashima, Mrs. U. Nakayama and child; for Yokohama, Dr. and Mrs. Hase and child, Dr. S. Kanazawa, Baron T. Ozawa, Messrs. U. Naito, M. P. M. Togo, T. Hirobe, K. Imamura, C. S. Wade, S. Kaneda, K. Iwashita and H. Dejuu.

Per *Yacata Maru*, from Australia, &c., for Hongkong, Mrs. Villier, Mrs. Pilar Solinap, Master L. Delgado, Brother Cornelius, Messrs. T. S. Jones, E. Villier, J. G. Hattz and G. E. Tneor; for Nagasaki, Miss K. Yoshikawa; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Ahern, Miss M. M. Norton, Messrs. Emile Challars, G. Kogirima, A. P. Livioke, H. R. Burke, Y. Ohgami and Pedro; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Hodgkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Sun Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lloyd, Mr. and Miss I. Mitchell, Messrs. S. H. Stark, Payne, Wilbraham, M. Birn, H. E. Pratten and Spicer.

Per *Kumano Maru*, from Japan, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. W. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Robertson and 3 children, Hon. and Mrs. H. W. Brewin, Mrs. and Miss Boanas, Mrs. and Miss Johnson, Mrs. W. F. Tutcher, Misses E. G. Baylis, Bird and Cardent, Capt. R. Unworth, Masters J. Haas, A. Haas and S. Haas, Messrs. A. H. Hasell, J. W. Millen and J. D. Murray; for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Clark, Master and Miss Clark, Master H. W. Clark, and Miss P. Clark; for Brisbane, Mrs. R. S. W. Whiting; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Dowling, Mr. and Mrs. W. Winn, Mr. and Mrs. I. Winn, Misses B. G. Gilmore, K. M. Gilmore, Holder and A. Holder; for Melbourne, Misses Whiting and A. Whiting.

Per *Bingo Maru*, from Japan, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Anderson and infant, Mrs. Miyuji, Miss F. A. Britton, Miss H. Tsukumo, Messrs. H. E. Lee, H. H. Lee, A. Clive, R. A. Barlow, A. Hamilton and E. Kiyomi; for Singapore, Mrs. K. Okamura, Mrs. Uyemaki, Messrs. Gould, J. Lloyd, Sotawa, T. Matsuzaki and A. Nakahara; for Colombo, Messrs. N. Joshi, Y. Saito, K. Konishi, H. Uttley, D. D. Allia, H. Takenouchi, K. Teukada and S. Tsuji; for Penang, Mr. A. Charan; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. C. Cowman, Dr. K. Kobayashi, Dr. K. Yoshimura, Dr. F. Makita, Messrs. Oswald Chambers, A. Kuwaki and R. Nakazawa; for London, Mrs. A. Black and child, Miss F. Piercy, and Mr. R. Ogen.

DEPARTED.

Per *Australien*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. E. Rober, Samuel S. Young, Dr. H. A. Cheng, Dr. Jen Hawk, Messrs. M. Fukuda, R. Matenbaya, Octavia Goncalves, Nuno Goncalves, William Taylor, R. H. Barker and Wukowitch; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Peter.

Per *Polynesien*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Mr. Denk, Misses Jeanne Morand & Delaunay; for Singapore, Messrs. Fleming D. Cheshire & E. Cowan, and Miss Yunsai; for Marseilles, Messrs. José Antoun du Fouseca, Montandon, Pasquier, Briand Néon and Caramejeas.

Per *Siberia*, from Hongkong, for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Gotschins, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wood, Mrs. Wallace, Miss E. Fuller, Dr. F. P. Whitehill, Lieut. F. G. Gullette, Lieut. R. H. Duckworth, Messrs. P. L. Barnes, M. de Yeaza, H. F. Cameron and A. Silverstone.

Per *America Maru*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai and San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Creagh and infant, Hon. and Mrs. H. C. Bates, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. C. Jacobi, Mrs. L. M. Gray and infant, Mrs. E. C. McCullough and infant, Misses A. C. Lemert, Cunningham, Jacobi and E. Anderson, Hon. L. G. Knight, Messrs. C. Heinrich, F. M. Farmer, R. W. Littlefield, L. Renner, T. A. Walters, J. A. Wolfson, W. M. Wooden, W. Tomatsune, A. Anderson, A. S. Rochester, H. Dufour, S. Khiamah and M. Kobayashi.

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